



Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Replacement

Project Description

This project will provide road, intersection, and interchange improvements of great value to the Port of Tacoma, The Puyallup Tribe, the surrounding industrial area, and the Cities of Fife and Tacoma. The project is a multi-phased plan to replace the 2,400 foot long Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge.

The project will replace the remaining 1,400 feet of the bridge by installing a steel tied truss arch, which fully spans the Puyallup River, and makes the final connection into the City of Fife over the Union Pacific Railroad. It is estimated the cost of the Phase 2 work will cost \$180 million. Work would begin in 2021 and be completed by 2027. The project will remove columns in the water which will improve fish habitat in the Puyallup River.

Design, Right of Way, and Construction funding is being sought for Phase 2.

History

The history of the existing bridge over the Puyallup River is tied to the history of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and their fight to retain their sovereign rights to fish and hunt on their ancestral lands. While history cannot be rewritten, acknowledging the past as a first step towards reconciliation creates new opportunities for understanding and partnership. The Tacoma City Council and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians collaborated to rename the Puyallup River Bridge to the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge and a renaming dedication ceremony was held on August 9, 2019.

Completed Construction

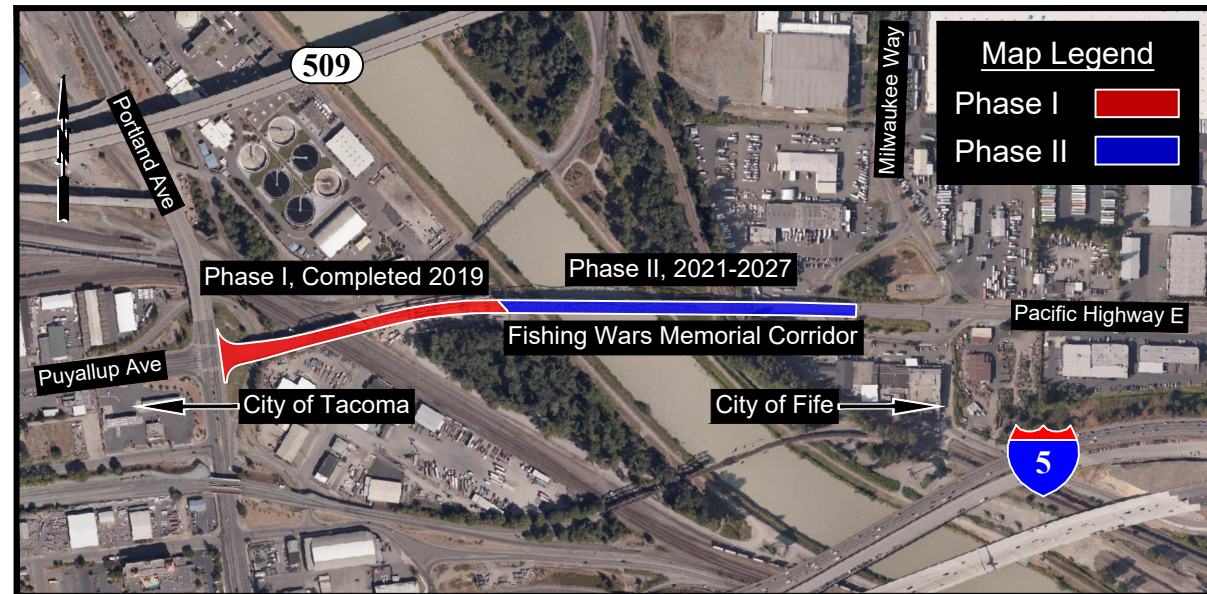
Phase 1 of the bridge replacement was completed in 2019. The project replaced the failing bridge structure over the BNSF Railroad line and initiated an active transportation route on the corridor. The design-build project was completed at a cost of \$42 million.

Project Justification and Benefits

The Port of Tacoma indirectly accounts for more than 43,000 jobs and generates \$637 million in annual wages in Pierce County.

Specific Improvements of this project would include:

- Improvement to the level of service and eliminates the weight restriction for trucks traveling to and from the Port of Tacoma.
- Improvement of the operation of the I-5 mainline and all streets and intersections in the project vicinity.
- Proposed construction of the SR 167 freeway extension will substantially improve access to the east portion of the Port of Tacoma and this project will complement the new freeway extension with improved access to the west portion of the Port.
- Improves safety to the traveling public by widening the lanes to current standards.
- The project will tie into existing multimodal facilities providing connections between the City of Tacoma, City of Fife, and the Port of Tacoma by completing bicycle and pedestrian facilities across the Puyallup River allowing for recreational and commuter users.
- The Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge is exceptionally important to freight mobility, emergency response, and system resiliency for crossing the Puyallup River.
- The Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge is the most direct detour for closures and congestion on I-5 and one of only a few crossing of the Puyallup River serving the Port of Tacoma.



Funding and Schedule

Year of Funding	Year of Completion	Total cost
2021	2027	\$180 Million

Summary of Benefits

- Improves Access to Port of Tacoma
- Improves Safety
- Improves I-5 Mainline Operation

Funding Partners

State

- State Legislative Earmark

Local

- City of Fife
- City of Tacoma
- Port of Tacoma
- Tacoma Public Utilities

Other

- FMSIB (Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board)
- TIB (Transportation Improvement Board)
- PSRC (Puget Sound Regional Council)

Federal

- Build America Grant (Better Utilization Investments to Leverage Development)
- Infra Grants (Investment to Revitalize America's Infrastructure)
- Local Bridge Program Grant