

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Tuesday, November 3, 2022 at 6pm in City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Richard DellIsola, presiding and Councilors Irene Cardillo, Stephanie Martins and Stephanie Smith.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilors Stephanie Martin and Stephanie Smith: That Sergeant Gaff appear at this meeting to discuss parking and visibility after the widening of the sidewalk on Nichols Street.

Sergeant Joe Gaff, Traffic Commission Chairman was invited but was not present.

Chairman Dell Isola read a communication from Jay Monty, Director of Transportation and Mobility. In the communication Mr. Monty stated that this is an ongoing project that is providing new sidewalks, pavement, trees and signage along the entire ½ mile Nichols street corridor and that some significant work still remains to be completed during the coming months. He noted that Nichols Street is the primary corridor serving the Keverian School, and a priority of this project was to improve the safety of the many young students who walk this roadway every day. In addition, two raised intersections will be constructed in 2023, one at Nichols and Vine Street, and a second at Nichols and Florence Street to further improve pedestrian safety and slow vehicle speeds. Lastly, several "rapid flashing beacons" will be placed at key crosswalks near the school and park to further enhance pedestrian safety. He mentioned that the narrowed Nichols Street roadway has slowed vehicle speeds in front of Gramsdorf park and the wider sidewalk enhances the safety of park users and further enabled the city to site a bike share station in this neighborhood where there were no other options to site one. He understood that some residents have voiced concerns about the visibility for drivers turning from Florence to Nichols street, and informed the Committee that the DPW will be adding signs to prevent vehicles parking too close to the intersection and obstructing sight lines. He explained that they feel that these changes are well balanced and create an overall safer roadway for all users, consistent with our Complete Streets policies and consistent with best practices for urban roadway design. He asked for everyone's patience while the project is completed and the remaining enhancements are made. Councilor Martins mentioned that she spoke to Mr. Monty and that the contract would have the project finished by the end of the year and she concurred that the traffic did slow down on Nichols Street. Councilor Smith explained that she was awaiting a follow up from Traffic Commission Chairman Joe Gaff on the parking situation on Nichols Street and she expressed concern that there were no markings or signage for crosswalks which has caused quite a concern for the pedestrian traffic going back and forth to the Keverian School. Councilor Smith agreed to reach out to Mr. Monty to request that the crosswalks be temporarily painted until the crosswalks are raised be done immediately to alleviate the issue with the children crossing. Councilor Cardillo expressed disappointment that Mr. Monty was not present to answer questions from the Committee. Chairman Dell Isola agreed that the crosswalks needed to be temporarily painted now. Councilor Martins wanted to know when the no parking signs would be installed on Nichols Street. Councilor Smith again agreed to reach out to Mr. Monty regarding the crosswalk temporary painting and requested that the matter be referred to Traffic Chairman Joe Gaff for an update on Nichols Street parking.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to Traffic Commission Joe Gaff for an update on Nichols Street parking.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Members present were Councilor Richard Dellisola, presiding and Councilors Irene Cardillo, Stephanie Martins and Stephanie Smith.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Smith: That a representative from Comcast appear at this meeting to provide an update on the infrastructure in the City and what enhancements are being made to resolve issues with the internet speed.

Comcast Government Representative Angela Holm Barson was also present.

Ms. Holm Barson apologized that she missed the last meeting due to her contact information changing after her marriage resulting in a name change. Councilor Smith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss internet speed issues as well as the loss of service in all different locations throughout the City and wondered if this was a City of Everett problem or a residential infrastructure problem. Ms. Holm Barson thanked Councilor Smith for recently reaching out to her to provide specific streets in which customers were experiencing issues. She noted that some problems are a result of third party excavation of streets in which the Comcast fiber is accidentally cut into which she stated happens a lot. However, she indicated that most issues could be on the User end with outdated routers needing to be replaced with new routers. She referenced a recent report from the City of Boston which determined that the majority of issues were indeed User end issues such as the placement of equipment within the home or the actual structure itself such as older homes with horsehair interferes with the transmission. She informed the Committee that she had checked with her Network Measurement team and they reported that the scores for Everett were really good and encouraging. She asked the members to please bring to her attention any issue a resident may have and she could have a team quickly look into. She mentioned that Comcast is continually making new improvements that include higher speeds, but assured the Committee that there is nothing the City needs to do. Councilor Martins referenced a prior zoom meeting on the subject matter and mentioned that many Users are making changes themselves that could be resulting in problems due to Comcast charging fees. Ms. Holm Barson responded that unfortunately fees was something that she personally could not change but again asked the Committee to reach out to her personally with any resident issues.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees