

#1-C0015-24

Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service Committee
February 8, 2024

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, February 8, 2024 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 Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Peter Pietrantonio, Holly Garcia and Guerline Alcy Jabouin.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That the appropriate representative appear at this meeting to discuss how the supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report (SFEIR) for Encore Boston Harbor (EEA #15060) submitted by Wynn Regarding the design, funding, and construction of the Mystic River Bridge will impact Everett.

Matt Lattanzi, Planning Director was also present.

Chairperson Martins noted that the first time she heard about this bridge was back in October 2021 when Governor Charlie Baker announced State funding for the bridge and since that time she has heard that other communities have had meetings pertaining to the bridge, but none were held in Everett. Mr. Lattanzi explained that the \$50 million construction of the bridge would be funded as a Capital Improvement by the Commonwealth with Wynn Encore funding the design which is currently going through the final review process. Mr. Lattanzi explained further that construction would start in 2025 and would be strictly a pedestrian/bike bridge connecting the MBTA station at Assembly to the Wynn Encore waterfront. Councilor Pietrantonio asked if motorized bikes would be allowed on the bridge and who would be responsible for maintaining the bridge. Mr. Lattanzi responded that as far as he knew only pedal bikes would be allowed and that the State would be responsible for maintaining the bridge. Councilor Pietrantonio asked if there would be any cost to City and Mr. Lattanzi assured him that there would be no cost to City. Councilor Pietrantonio asked what would be the benefit to the Everett people and Mr. Lattanzi explained that the connection to the MBTA station would help lessen traffic on lower Broadway. Councilor Jabouin inquired on how it would help residents in the Ferry street area and Mr. Lattanzi informed the Committee that eventually with the proposed East of Broadway project that there would be new transportation routes and bridges connecting lower Broadway to Second Street that would allow easier connection routes to other parts of the community. Councilor Garcia inquired if there would be any impact during construction of the bridge and Mr. Lattanzi responded no. Councilor Pietrantonio expressed concern about the traffic and public parking availability with all the proposed development for the east side of Broadway and Mr. Lattanzi informed him that there would be public parking and that there would be an extensive public hearing process on the proposals. Councilor Pietrantonio remarked that he didn't want to wake up one morning and find a highway was built over his house to access this area. Councilor Jabouin expressed concern that the communities of Cambridge and Somerville have already held meetings on the proposed bridge but not the City of Everett. Mr. Lattanzi explained that these communities have a large bike advocacy group that drives these types of discussions and mentioned that the City of Everett looking to create a pedestrian/bike advocacy group here. Councilor Jabouin stated that the City needs to do a better job of sharing information other than GOPSPS Committee - #1-C0015-24 - - 2/8/24

on Facebook. Chairperson Martins asked if the City of Everett had any say on the matter of the bridge being designed and constructed. Mr. Lattanzi reminded her that the State was funding the construction of the bridge and Wynn Encore was funding the design which is now in final review. Chairperson Martins mentioned the meetings that occurred in the other communities and referenced some of the comments from these meetings such as people felt that Encore should take on more of the financial burden of constructing the bridge, others felt that the bridge should be wider than what is being proposed in the design and she felt that there should be more community meetings pertaining to this bridge.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to send Transportation Director Jay Monty a correspondence outlining some issues the City Council has with the construction of the bridge.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees