



January 4, 2008

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Office of Communications/11 Most Endangered
1785 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Washington DC 20036

RE: MURRAY MORGAN BRIDGE, TACOMA, WA 2008 NOMINATION

Dear National Trust,

The Murray Morgan Bridge is at the heart of Tacoma and ties together three distinct segments of the city: Tacoma's historic Central Business District, the redeveloping Thea Foss Waterway, and the economic engine of the Port of Tacoma. As a group, the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council represents these areas and the greater downtown.

The New Tacoma Neighborhood Council exists to assist in creating a safe, dynamic and livable community within the heart of the city. The Council partners with city leaders, businesses, residents and the community in promoting economic prosperity, the arts and maintaining healthy neighborhoods.

The Murray Morgan Bridge is a significant part of our city and the represented neighborhood council area. In terms of identity, the historic structure recalls the early days of city development and the working waterfront. It's visage as one travels in the city by car or boat creates a unique Tacoma experience. The bridge is also an important transportation link between the Port and downtown and critical for shortening emergency response times.

The last two decades have seen an incredible renaissance in downtown Tacoma with adaptive reuse of historic buildings and both private and public investment in the city. Among these, the redevelopment of the Thea Foss Waterway has created public amenities including museums and a waterfront esplanade increasing public access to the water. This resurgence is important to the livability of our city and has allowed Tacoma to host events such as the Tall Ships Festival. The recent closure of the Murray Morgan Bridge and the potential demolition threatens the ability of our city to continue these trends and thrive.

Members of our neighborhoods frequently advocate on behalf of preservation from both the historic and economic development significance. New Tacoma Neighborhood Council supports efforts of the City and preservation advocates to rehabilitate the Murray Morgan Bridge. Given the varied state and local interests, National Trust support and national attention given to this endangered site would assist in developing potential solutions.

Sincerely,

Marty Campbell,
Chair,
New Tacoma Neighborhood Council

Post Office Box 1784 • Tacoma, WA 98401