



Legislative Department Seattle City Council Memorandum

Date: February 24, 2012
To: Economic Resiliency and Regional Relations (ERRR) Committee
From: Meg Moorehead and Rebecca Herzfeld, Council Central Staff
Subject: **North Highline Annexation Options**

RESOLUTION 31283 POLICY DIRECTION

Burien and Seattle have overlapping Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) in the North Highline area. After extensive evaluation and interjurisdictional discussions, in 2010 Burien successfully annexed the portion of North Highline called Area X (see attached timeline and map). The Seattle City Council adopted Resolution 31283 in March 2011 to address the remaining portions of the overlapping PAA. The resolution states the Council's intent that Seattle will not object or stand in the way if Burien initiates an annexation election for that area. It also says that by the end of February 2012, the Council will make a final decision on whether to proceed with North Highline annexation and withdraw its PAA.

The North Highline area addressed in Resolution 31283 includes an area called the Duwamish Triangle where Seattle's PAA overlaps with Tukwila's PAA. The resolution requested that the Executive verify financial information for the PAA by the end of 2011. It also said that Seattle would meet with Tukwila to discuss the PAA. A series of meetings were conducted in which agreement was not reached between Seattle and Tukwila. The Executive's verification of financial information is still pending.

STEPS TAKEN BY BURIEN

On February 16, the Boundary Review Board (BRB) approved Burien's application to annex North Highline Area Y. Burien's next steps are to confirm the BRB decision and request that annexation be placed on a ballot, with possible votes in either August or November 2012. Burien may decide against an annexation vote, however, if the State adopts a measure currently under consideration by the Legislature to remove or reduce sales tax annexation incentives.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

Area Y. Consistent with Resolution 31283, Seattle has not objected to Burien's efforts to annex North Highline Area Y. The BRB decision to approve Burien's annexation petition precludes Seattle pursuing annexation unless Burien abandons its efforts or voters reject its annexation. Although Seattle's overlapping PAA for Area Y is not an obstacle to Burien's annexation vote, it is still technically possible to remove the PAA as part of the March 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendments. However if removal of the sales tax incentive causes Burien to drop its current annexation efforts, retaining Seattle's Area Y PAA would maintain the option to consider

annexation sometime in the future. Staff recommend retaining the PAA for now while reaffirming Council intent to not stand in the way of Burien's annexation efforts.

Duwamish Triangle. Updated financial information is needed from the Executive before further Council action can be taken on the Duwamish Triangle. A firm delivery date for the information is not yet available.

NEXT STEPS

If the Committee decides to retain the current PAA and Resolution 31283 policy, no legislative action is needed. To maintain clear communication with Burien, the Council could consider sending a letter stating its current position. Further action on the Duwamish Triangle and another area of annexation interest, called the Sliver on the River, is in the Council's 2012 work plan. A Council briefing on the work plan for the Triangle and the Sliver is scheduled for March 5.

Attachment 1: North Highline Annexation Timeline

Attachment 2: Map of potential annexation areas

Attachment 1: North Highline Annexation Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Summer/Fall 2006	Seattle, Burien and King County conduct series of community-wide meetings to determine annexation options in the North Highline area. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to come to resolution on potential annexation areas.
November 2006	Burien designates the entire North Highline area (Area X & Y) as its potential annexation area.
December 2006	Seattle designates the entire North Highline Area (Area “X” & “Y”) as its potential annexation area.
December 2008	Burien and Seattle enter negotiations on the timing of annexations in the North Highline area. Results in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burien having opportunity to annex North Highline Area “X”• Seattle having opportunity to annex North Highline Area “Y”
February 2009	Burien re-files Notice of Intent with Boundary Review Board to initiate process to annex North Highline Area “X”
August 2009	Annexation of North Highline Area “X” approved by area voters (Special Election)
April 2009	Effective date of North Highline Area “X” becoming part of Burien.
March 2011	Seattle adopts Resolution stating intent to defer consideration of annexation of North Highline Area “Y” until February 2012. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution encourages Burien to initiate an election and not object to their actions to do so.
October 2011	Burien files Notice of Intent with Boundary Review Board to initiate process to annex North Highline Area “Y”
February 2012	Boundary Review Board approves Burien’s application to annex North Highline Area “Y”
Summer 2012	Burien’s proposed date for annexation vote in North Highline Area “Y” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annexation vote depends on availability of state assistance for annexation areas.
Spring 2013	Effective date of North Highline Area “Y” if approved by voters.