

December 19, 2022

Central Pierce Fire & Rescue SEPA Commentary

GSH Expansion Plan

1. 7th St SE between 23rd Ave SE and 15th Ave SE is one of the main routes into the hospital, and will increase significantly in traffic volume with the planned extension. The existing portion is too narrow with no place for traffic to cede the right-of-way to emergency vehicles. It is also extremely uneven which necessitates a massive reduction in speed to ensure proper patient care in the back of medic units transporting to the hospital. Improvements need to be made to address these deficiencies.
2. The existing ambulance bay is inadequate to handle the current level of emergency vehicle traffic. We often have all ambulance stalls filled, with additional units lined up in the ambulance bay approach. We would like to see an expansion of the ambulance bay with additional parking stalls that also addresses the police parking that interferes with egress. The police parking needs to be maintained in the vicinity, but reconfigured or relocated.
3. Provide a minimum of two dedicated parking stalls for fire department engine apparatus that respond to the hospital to retrieve personnel involved in emergent patient care. Currently, emergency rigs park along 3rd St SE and partially block the right-of-way creating an additional hazard.
4. The expansion of the ER waiting room will eliminate access and turnaround for fire apparatus. This must be mitigated to maintain clear width for fire access.
5. The future support tower appears to encroach/eliminate an existing fire access area. Accommodations must be made to ensure fire access.
6. With limited access for fire apparatus to the parking garages, dry standpipes need to be installed to ensure efficient water supply for fire suppression activities.

Kevin Berdan

Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

AC Prevention & Education

(253) 325-2229