

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Thursday, January 23, 2025.

The *Washington State Standard* reports that Washington's attorney general, along with three other states, has sued the Trump administration as of Tuesday over the president's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship. Attorney General Nick Brown's lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Seattle comes just 24 hours after President Donald Trump took office for a second time Monday. The Democratic attorney general, who took office last week, announced the litigation Tuesday in a press conference in Seattle. Oregon, Arizona, and Illinois have joined the lawsuit.

The birthright controversy is not the only executive order under attack. Senator Maria Cantwell delivered a speech on the Senate floor yesterday calling President Trump to uphold last week's Supreme Court decision requiring that TikTok be sold to an American-owned company or cease operating in the US. In addition to mentioning Department of Commerce findings about personal data being collected from TikTok users by the Chinese, Cantwell cited a 2023 report from Rutgers University that found TikTok likely amplifies or represses content depending on the interests of the Chinese Communist Party.

According to the *Port Townsend Leader*, Port Townsend's public works department has secured \$5.3 million in transportation grants, meeting nearly every grant it applied for in 2024.

In December, the city announced it had secured two Washington State Transportation Improvement Board grants totaling \$3.2 million, for the reconstruction of Lawrence Street between Walker and Harrison streets and chip seal paving along sections of San Juan Avenue and F Street. Shortly after the holiday, they received word from Washington state that that they were on the short list for more state grants, and indeed: the city has received an additional \$1.2 million to construct sidewalks in the gap between Sims Way near the Bishop Canyon area, \$500,000 to create a shared-use path on both sides of Sims Way between Haines and Sheridan Streets and \$350,000 to develop a plan for non-motorized facilities around schools. These grants, totaling just over \$2 million, brought the award to \$5.3 million.

Each grant will be paid out over the next three years, but matching funds are required. Transportation Benefit District (TBD) revenues and water and stormwater taxes will provide matching funds for the initial two grants: A grant agreement for both was approved at this week's City Council meeting.

Matching requirements for the remaining grants are expected to come from funds from the city's Transportation Benefit District, as the TBD will bring in \$4.5 million over the next three years. "I think we are using the taxpayer resources right up to the maximum extent possible," Public Works Director Steve King said. "At this point, we do not need a general fund infusion to meet these grant requirements." King attributes the department's success to teamwork with several partners within the community, including city staff, City Council, community groups, and organizational partnerships such as Disability Awareness Starts Here, Jefferson Transit Authority, Jefferson County Farmers Market, and Port Townsend Main Street. King and his team expect to hear back from the state in the spring about another grant for the reconstruction of Lawrence Street between Harrison and Monroe streets.

And finally, East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR) reminds us that this is national Community Risk Reduction Week. In 2023, EJFR responded to 8,042 calls, many of which could have been prevented through Community Risk Reduction strategies. EJFR is working to expand and develop programs that align with Community Risk Reduction, including wildfire prevention, fire extinguisher training, smoke alarm installations, fall prevention education, business code inspections, comprehensive training for career and volunteer firefighters, and the deployment of new apparatus and equipment. For more information, visit <https://www.ejfr.org/>.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.