

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance authorizing 1) execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$1,317,725 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding provided through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to support design of the SE Eastgate Way Sidewalk Project (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91); (2) amending the 2025-2030 General Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund to increase the budget for CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91 by \$249,225; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Andrew Singelakis, Director
Maher Welaye, Assistant Director
Eric Miller, Implementation Planning Manager
Mia Waters, Grant Program Manager
Transportation Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Approval of this Ordinance for the SE Eastgate Way Sidewalk Project authorizes acceptance of up to \$1,317,725 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding and execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the WSDOT to conduct design phase activity on this project, and amendment of the 2025-2030 General CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91 to increase the budget by \$249,225.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6910

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

There is currently no pedestrian facility on SE Eastgate Way between Richards Rd and the 13200 block to the east. There is only a buffered bike lane abutting a confining guardrail protecting a steep drop-off, but there is no sidewalk. With the opening of the Eastside supportive housing complex a short distance east of this project, there has been a substantial uptick in the number of pedestrians using who may be a hazard to themselves and others by walking in the bicycle lane.

Filling this critical sidewalk system gap improves pedestrian access and improves both pedestrian and bicycle safety by providing pedestrians with a dedicated walkway. This sidewalk improvement will benefit mobility and access within the designated Eastgate Countywide Center and connectivity to the designated Factoria Countywide Center, accessed via Richards Road. Completing this sidewalk segment benefits commuters and residents of the area who will have easier and safer access to transit, grocery/retail stores, and the services available within the two activity centers.

This gap is within 600 feet of the newly completed Eastgate center for supported housing/services, including a 100-bed emergency shelter for homeless men, a 95-unit permanent supportive housing project for homeless individuals; and a 300-unit Polaris “Workforce Housing” project for persons earning in the 50-60% range of average median income. Continuing east, this sidewalk also connects to and supports access to the Eastgate Transit Center and Park and Ride/I-90 Flyer Stop serviced by multiple Sound Transit and King County metro bus routes, providing access to Downtown Bellevue, Seattle, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond and Renton. Filling this gap will support the shelter/transitional housing investment and all other users of this important corridor.

Project Description

This project will complete the design phase of an approximate 850-foot gap in sidewalk on the north side of SE Eastgate Way between Richards Road and the 13200 block of SE Eastgate Way. Project features include a concrete sidewalk, with new curb and gutter, retaining walls and railings where needed, stormwater drainage, environmental mitigation, and pavement replacement where affected by construction.

Timeline

In the spring of 2024 the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), King County Nonmotorized Grant competition opened for applications. Bellevue staff evaluated the proposed SE Eastgate Sidewalk project for inclusion within this competition. Based on proposed project size, location, and connections to services this project aligned well with the grant parameters and the city applied for funding.

In June 2024 the PSRC Policy board recommended this project for funding and in July 2024 the PSRC Executive Committee confirmed the selection. In December 2024 PSRC formally awarded \$1,068,500 in design phase funding for this project which was scheduled to commence in spring 2027.

In an effort to advance the project timeline for this vital sidewalk project, the Bellevue Transportation Department has been working with the PSRC to advance the design grant funds into 2026. Also, as part of a 2026 PSRC supplemental funding exercise, this project will receive a \$249,225 increase to its original federal grant award, resulting in a total award of \$1,317,725. With Council acceptance of this grant and PSRC procedural approvals in spring 2026, this project will be able to initiate sidewalk design this year.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Acceptance of this grant and authorization of the funding agreement with the WSDOT is consistent with the following policies in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- TR-24. Increase connectivity and system completeness for all transportation modes to create a Complete Streets arterial network.
- TR-50. Maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network.
- TR-96. Implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and evaluate, describe, and prioritize projects that address Performance Target gaps through the Mobility Implementation Plan.
- TR-123: Leverage local funding to seek and secure state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance, and operations.

- TR-124. Provide and prioritize transportation funding to address Performance Target gaps for people walking, biking, riding transit, and travelling in a car.

In addition, acceptance of this grant aligns with the city's 2026 Vision Zero Action Plan (strategy 2.2, Implement infrastructure that improves safety and comfort for people bicycling, including the Urban Core Bike Network projects; and strategy 6.1, Pursue additional resources through outside funding programs to implement new Vision Zero projects and programs), and allows the city to advance safety improvements in a cost-effective manner.

Fiscal Impact

Executing this grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$1,317,725 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding to conduct design of the SE Eastgate Way Sidewalk Project (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91). The original grant award amount, \$1,068,500, is already included in the adopted 2025-2030 General Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan. This Council action will increase the federal grant share by an additional \$249,225 to reflect the supplemental award. There is a 13.5% minimum matching requirement for this grant. The total estimated cost to implement design of this project is estimated at \$1,600,000, which after applying the grant amount, leaves \$282,275 in required local funds. This amount satisfies the minimum match requirement and is fully funded in the 2025-2030 General CIP Plan through PW-WB-91.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance authorizing 1) execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$1,317,725 in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding provided through the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to support design of the SE Eastgate Way Sidewalk Project (CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91); (2) amending the 2025-2030 General Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund to increase the budget for CIP Plan No. PW-WB-91 by \$249,225; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. CIP Project Description (PW-WB-91)
Proposed Ordinance No. 6910

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

PSRC Grant Award Letter and supplemental funding documentation
WSDOT Grant Agreement (draft)