

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to accept up to \$1,426,531 in federal Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) funding to support implementation of the Real-time Traffic Signal Safety Intervention (RTSSI) Project; and 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to increase the budget for the Smart Mobility Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$1,426,531.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Acceptance of this federally funded (Stage 1) SMART grant from the USDOT would provide sufficient monetary resources for implementation of a pilot or prototype stage of the RTSSI Project. This project will pilot the use of traffic signals that would change in real time to protect people walking, biking or using wheelchairs across intersections.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6798

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In Bellevue, 53 percent of all pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries are related to motorists' failure to yield. For the Real-Time Traffic Signal Safety Interventions Project, the Transportation Department will test the use of intelligent sensors, video analytics, deep learning and edge computing to detect risks for vulnerable road users and immediately adjust traffic signals.

Bellevue will prototype the proposed technologies at five signalized intersections in the Crossroads neighborhood, including the pedestrian-focused area around the BelRed light rail station and nearby schools, parks and shops. The project area will also help prioritize older adults (25 percent of Bellevue's population is 65 or older), with an estimated 13 percent of the population reporting having a disability. More than half of people living in or near Crossroads are over 65 or under 18, underscoring the urgency of improving road safety in this area.

Members from the community can expect to see public engagement opportunities related to the project later this fall, with initial testing of the technologies starting in the spring of 2025.

The SMART (Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation) grant program, funded by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), supports public agencies and transit authorities testing technologies that improve transportation efficiency and safety. Bellevue's SMART grant includes an exciting partnership with the City of Tacoma to demonstrate scalability and technology portability during subsequent phases of this project.

The BIL established the SMART discretionary grant program with \$100 million appropriated annually for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2022-2026. SMART is a two-stage program. Stage 1 grant (up to \$2,000,000 dollars per applicant for activity spanning 18 months) are open for any eligible entity to apply. Recipients of Stage 1 grants will be eligible to expand their projects through Stage 2 grants (up to \$15,000,000 and 36 months). Applicants must have received a Stage 1 grant to apply to Stage 2. This program is 100 percent grant funded with no required match funding.

Bellevue Transportation Department staff submitted an application for the RTSSI project to the USDOT and the SMART grant program in October 2023. In March 2024, the USDOT notified the City that it was awarded its full grant request. Upon execution of the grant agreement authorized by this action, the City will have approximately 18 months to complete the Stage 1 Project.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

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

- TR-51. Employ intelligent transportation system technology and infrastructure to support the efficient movement of people and vehicles throughout the city.
- TR-55. Maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network.
- TR-122. Improve the opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross streets at intersections and designated mid-block locations.
- TR-131: Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance, and operations.

Fiscal Impact

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$1,426,531 in federal funding to support the pilot implementation of the RTSSI project as part of the Smart Mobility Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156). There are no grant matching requirements with this grant; however, any additional project costs above the maximum amount of the grant award will be the City's responsibility.

This action will increase the 2023-2029 General CIP Plan budget for PW-R-156 by \$1,426,531. Early implementation of the project will begin in 2024 with full implementation of the pilot project in 2025 and early 2026.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to accept up to \$1,426,531 in federal Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) funding to support

implementation of the Real-time Traffic Signal Safety Intervention (RTSSI) Project; and 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to increase the budget for the Smart Mobility Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$1,426,531.

2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-156)
Proposed Ordinance No. 6798

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

USDOT Grant Award Notification
USDOT SMART Grant Agreement (draft)