

# CD-44 Grand Connection Implementation

Category: **Bellevue: Great Places Where Y** Status: **Ongoing**  
 Department: **CD** Location: **Various**

### Programmed Expenditures

Programmed Expenditures	Appropriated To Date	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Budget
8,500,000	3,000,000	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000

### Description and Scope

The Grand Connection is a Council Priority to create the City’s signature placemaking feature to connect from Meydenbauer Bay, through Downtown Bellevue, and across I-405 into Wilburton to meet up with the Eastrail regional trail. Council approval of the Grand Connection framework plans and completion of the Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) work set in motion a series of implementation efforts.

- 1) Grand Connection Lid Concept: Through partnerships and a mix of funding sources, the lid presents an opportunity to have the I-405 crossing be a unique, comfortable, and attractive route that catalyzes adjacent development in Downtown and Wilburton. Future work is needed on a technical feasibility study, benefits analysis, environmental review and design refinements, including phasing options.
- 2) Public Infrastructure Investment: The Grand Connection framework plan includes infrastructure investment for items such as raised intersections along the route and wayfinding to make the pedestrian experience more enjoyable and safer.
- 3) Tactical Urbanism and Small-Scale Investments: The Grand Connection process identified near-term, small scale implementation efforts to help advance the vision for corridor. These include items such as seating, identity treatments and temporary art installations.
- 4) Arts and Culture: The Grand Connection framework plan references arts and culture as an essential element to establishing a sense of place. Investment will be pursued for arts and culture as opportunities become available.
- 5) Wilburton Vision: The Wilburton CAC completed their recommended vision for the Wilburton area in 2018. Additional work will include resumption of the environmental impact statement (EIS) process, land use code amendments (LUCA), design guidelines, and a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) needed to realize the vision for Wilburton. This project will also fund up to \$500K for analysis and conceptual design of the I-405/NE 6th Street HOV extension into the Wilburton area with termination at either 116th Avenue NE or 120th Avenue NE (TBD pending further study).

### Rationale

This project funding is critical for implementing the Wilburton vision and Grand Connection framework plans for Downtown Bellevue and the I 405 crossing/Wilburton segment. Capital investment will build upon momentum from the public and private sector and serve as a demonstration to stakeholders and the public of commitment from the City in the Grand Connection. It will continue to advance the Council’s vision for the Grand Connection and leverage other investment and partnership opportunities.

### Environmental Impacts

High-level review of the Grand Connection I-405 crossing alternatives were included in the environmental review covering the Wilburton Land Use and Transportation Study. Further work on the lid crossing would include additional environmental review. The completion of the Wilburton Land Use and Transportation Study will include publishing the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

### Operating Budget Impacts

This program will have no impact on operating expenditures.

### Project Map



### Schedule of Activities

Project Activities	From - To	Amount
Project Costs	Ongoing	8,500,000

**Total Budgetary Cost Estimate:** 8,500,000

### Means of Financing

Funding Source	Amount
General Taxes & LTGO Bond Proceeds	8,500,000

**Total Programmed Funding:** 8,500,000  
**Future Funding Requirements:** 0