

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$2,500,000 in federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding to support construction of the Eastrail-Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection as part of the larger Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103); and, 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to decrease the budget for the Transportation Grant Match Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-206) by \$781,200 and increase the budget for the Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103) by \$3,281,200.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Ordinance authorizes acceptance of federal grant funding to construct the Eastrail-Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection project. This approval includes execution of the grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) and amends the 2023-2029 General CIP Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6774.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Eastrail regional trail is a 42-mile north-south rail-trail conversion that connects communities from Renton, through Bellevue, to Snohomish County. Open segments in Bellevue currently run from the BelRed/NE Spring Boulevard area north into Kirkland and from Coal Creek Parkway to Renton, with improvements in the Wilburton area funded for completion in the next several years. In the vicinity of Interstate 90 (I-90), the Eastrail alignment crosses over the Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) trail alignment, with an approximate 30-foot grade difference. There is currently no dedicated nonmotorized connection between the two trails.

The MTSG regional trail encompasses a 100-mile trail system paralleling I-90, connecting the Seattle waterfront to Ellensburg, across the Cascade Mountains. However, this east-west system also has critical gaps, including a lack of any formal connection to the north-south running Eastrail regional trail.

This project will construct a trail connection along SE 118th Avenue SE and SE 32nd Street between the two major regional trails. This project will accommodate the grade differential between the two trails. This 0.2-mile trail connection will provide an accessible, buffered, multimodal pathway along 118th Avenue SE from the MTSG / I-90 trail spur, continuing north to the intersection with SE 32nd Street.

At SE 32nd Street, the project will install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) protected crossing of 118th Avenue SE. Continuing east on SE 32nd Street, the project will implement a striped six-foot-wide, dedicated shoulder for pedestrians and bicyclists on this low volume / dead-end road, connecting to the Eastrail regional trail.

In November 2023, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) issued an award of \$2,500,000 in federal TAP funding to construct this project.

For the construction phase, the estimated \$3,281,200 total cost will be funded by the \$2,500,000 grant plus \$781,200 in required local match funding. The matching funds will be covered by the Transportation Grant Match Program, CIP Plan No. PW-R-206. The action will program both the grant and match funding into the Eastside Rail Corridor program, CIP Plan No. G-103. When combined, the total design, right of way and construction costs are estimated to be \$3,906,800. The City will fund design and right of way phases, estimated at \$625,600, using existing funding within the 2023-2029 General CIP Plan.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

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

- TR-21. Ensure that the transportation system infrastructure in Bellevue provides mobility options for all modes, and accommodates the mobility needs of everyone, including underserved populations.
- TR-25. Increase system connectivity for all modes by providing for vehicular, transit, pedestrian, and bicycling facilities to create a Complete Streets network throughout the city.
- TR-109. Promote and facilitate walking and bicycling.
- TR-111. Implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and prioritize projects that: 1. Address safety issues; 2. Provide access to activity centers; 3. Provide access to the transit and school bus systems; 4. Complete and connect planned pedestrian or bicycle facilities; 5. Develop primary north-south and east-west bicycle routes through the city.
- TR-117. Consider the personal health benefits and the community environmental benefits of walking, jogging, and bicycling in pedestrian and bicycle project design and funding.
- TR-137. Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance, and operations.
- Safe Streets Strategy SS1 – Implement projects citywide that make it safer to walk, bicycle, and take transit (and where relevant to make it more comfortable and accessible).

Fiscal Impact

Grant Agreement

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$2,500,000 in federal TAP funding to support the construction phase of Eastrail - Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection as part of the larger Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103). The total cost for the construction phase for this project is estimated to be \$3,281,200. A minimum 13.5 percent match is required for this project, therefore the remaining \$781,200 to complete the project will be funded by a budget transfer from the Transportation Grant Match Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-206), which

provides local funding to support grant matching requirements and to implement projects that are awarded grant funding.

CIP Plan Amendment

This action will amend the 2023-2029 General CIP Plan to decrease the budget for PW-R-206 by \$781,200 and increase the budget for G-103 by \$3,281,200 to reflect the transfer of funds and recognize the grant award for full implementation of the project, with construction of the project planned for 2026.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$2,500,000 in federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding to support construction of the Eastrail-Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection as part of the larger Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103); and, 2) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to decrease the budget for the Transportation Grant Match Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-206) by \$781,200 and increase the budget for the Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103) by \$3,281,200.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
 - B. CIP Project Description Eastrail Corridor Program (G-103)
 - C. CIP Project Description Transportation Grant Match Program (PW-R-206)
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6774

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

PSRC TAP Program Award Letter
WSDOT Local Agency Agreement (draft)