

Additional Council Requests

There are several additional requests that Council has raised with staff that are summarized below for further discussion and direction. The list reflects items received to date.

Staff seeks direction on these proposals and appropriate funding source, if approved, on November 28 for a tentative adoption date of December 5. Staff will provide additional information for further council consideration and discussion as requested.

Who	Which Fund	How Much	What
TechHire Initiative	General Fund	\$50,000 one-time	Support the local TechHire program by focusing to improve diversity and inclusion in the technology sector
Grand Connection Seed Funding	CIP	\$1,000,000 to 1,500,000 one-time	Provide additional funding to advance the branding and identity of the Grand Connection
Eastside Rail Corridor Design Support		\$500,000 One-time (\$250,000 in 2017; and \$250,000 in 2018)	Support design of key crossing and connections in the Wilburton segment of the ERC
Squash Program Funding	General Fund	\$50,000 one-time	Support and funding for Squash programs that take place year-long throughout the Bellevue area

TechHire Initiative (Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Lee)

Background:

On March 10, 2015, President Obama announced the TechHire initiative, a new campaign to expand local tech sectors by building tech talent pipelines in communities across the country.

There are currently over 50 TechHire communities across the United States.

Opportunity@Work, a not-for-profit social venture, collaborates with communities and a wide range of partners to support the national TechHire initiative.

In 2016, the Seattle region was awarded a TechHire designation. The City of Seattle is partnering with local employers, colleges and the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County to place 2,000 people in tech jobs by 2020. Coding Dojo in Bellevue is also pursuing the TechHire designation.

To support Seattle TechHire, the Washington Technology Industry Association launched their Apprenti program in 2016. The program trains future tech workers with an emphasis on under-represented groups including women, minorities, and veterans. Apprentices receive two to four months of full-time training then begin one year of paid on-the-job training with one of the program's hiring partners.

City of Bellevue Support for TechHire:

The City of Bellevue Office of Economic Development (OED) could support the local TechHire program by focusing to improve diversity and inclusion in the technology sector in key communities in the city. The cost of which would be \$50,000. Potential initiatives OED could undertake include:

- WTIA Apprenti Program: OED could contract with WTIA to bring the Apprenti program to Bellevue for local job-training and apprenticeships with local technology employers.
- TechHire Job Fairs: OED could facilitate job fairs featuring local technology employers to encourage hiring and opportunities for local residents.
- Code-to-Career: OED could facilitate information sessions for local residents about the career paths available in the IT industry and training opportunities.
- TechHire Kids: OED could partner with Eastside Pathways to engage and get kids excited about tech through their Extended Learning and Career Pathways programs.

Potential partners for Bellevue TechHire include mini-City Hall, Bellevue College, Eastside Pathways, ImpactHub, ExtraSlice, WeWork and local technology employers and startups.

Options for operating funding could include:

- A. Reduce an existing expenditure
- B. Fund through the use of operating general fund reserves or contingency
- C. Defer until a later date. Council always has the prerogative to adjust the budget at any time.
- D. Other direction as provided by Council

Grand Connection Seed Funding (Deputy Mayor Chelminiak)

Background

The Grand Connection is a Council Priority that will result in a “linear park” running from Meydenbauer Bay, through the heart of Downtown, to the Eastside Rail Corridor. It is destined to become an iconic place-making feature that will serve the entire city, and a must-see place for Eastside visitors. Through ongoing work this year, the general concept has evolved to show how the Grand Connection will establish a unique and exciting identity.

Work on Grand Connection design will continue in 2017, with further definition of the I-405 crossing and the interface with the emerging land use vision for the Wilburton commercial area and the Rail Corridor. An early implementation fund of \$2 million is already included in the Preliminary CIP; this proposal would add up to \$1.5 million for additional early implementation of the Grand Connection into 2020 and 2021.

Funding already included in the \$2 million Preliminary CIP would provide for design refinements that will make the project more ready for grant funding, with an emphasis on the I-405 crossing and other public space nodes. It will also target some “tactical urbanism” tests of public space improvements and programming, to enhance public engagement and serve as a catalyst for further development. It may also contribute to early implementation of art works, and programming of public spaces on the Grand Connection.

The additional funding would allow for construction of several key physical improvements that will help establish the identity and presence of the Grand Connection. The first priority will be raised intersection treatments along the Grand Connection route. Depending on further budget definition, funds may also be used to construct additional identity elements along the Corridor length.

Options for CIP funding could include:

- A. Reduce an existing CIP project
- B. Fund through the CIP Council Advancement/Contingency
- C. Defer until a later date. Council always has the prerogative to adjust the budget at any time.
- D. Other direction as provided by Council.

Eastside Rail Corridor Design Support (Deputy Mayor Chelminiak)

Background

The Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) extends from Renton north to Snohomish County, passing through Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville and portions of unincorporated King County. It also includes a spur that extends 7-plus miles from Woodinville south to Redmond. Although the City of Bellevue is not an ERC owner, it is the permitting authority for the segment that passes within the City limits known as the Wilburton Segment, and it has a keen interest in the development of a high quality, multi-use trail for broad public use along the corridor.

The ERC is located in the heart of the Wilburton Commercial Area, providing key connections from the north and south and a significant opportunity to implement trail and transit-oriented development in the area. The Grand Connection provides the opportunity to create a strong non-motorized link between Meydenbauer Bay, Downtown Bellevue and the ERC, increasing multi-modal transportation options for residents and workers within the City's job center.

The ERC is expected to accelerate growth through the Wilburton and BelRed areas as technology oriented companies, seeking this type of mobility solution and amenity for their workers, position their companies along the ERC. One recent example of such a company is REI, who chose to site its global headquarters in the Spring District in part thanks to its close proximity to the ERC.

There has been a considerable amount of forward momentum to open the Wilburton Segment for public use starting in 2017, at which time King County will remove the remaining rails and install an interim trail in the corridor. Although substantial progress has been made, there is still a need to fund design of key crossing and connections in the Wilburton segment; most notably, the overcrossing at NE 8th Street.

The County is currently leading an effort to develop a 30 percent design concept for the ERC trail crossing at NE 8th Street. The crossing at this location is significant in functional terms because it will not only support through movement on the ERC trail but also will be a key link between the Wilburton activity area on the south side of NE 8th Street and the Wilburton East Link station on the north side. The City and Sound Transit are working with the County on this design project. It is anticipated that the City could be asked to partner in the final design costs for the overcrossing.

Other key connections and crossings that could benefit from design funding include the NE 4th Street crossing and the ERC/Mountains to Sound Greenway Connection, among others. The proposed \$500,000 budget item (\$250,000 in 2017; and \$250,000 in 2018) would allow for the City to help advance design of some of these remaining key crossings and connections in the Wilburton Segment in partnership with other regional agencies. Funding the design phase of a project brings it to a status where it becomes more competitive for outside grant funding. In this sense, City support of up-front design costs can be an effective catalyst to bring additional funding for project construction.

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Squash Program Funding (Councilmember Lee)

Dear Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Council Member Lee, Robertson, Robinson, Slatter, and Wallace,

I write to you seeking your support and the funding for Squash programs that take place year-long throughout the Bellevue area. The events draw thousands of new tourists to the region every year. Additionally, our Squash programs create a welcoming environment for youth. And one of the ways is by providing the following for events and support for Squash specifically in the city of the Bellevue.

West Coast Junior Squash Showcase:

Last June, we hosted college coaches from Princeton, Brown, George Washington, and more in order to help under the radar talent from kids on the West Coast, where it is more difficult to make enough tournaments to be properly recruited. Through this event, 4 of our kids received offers from these top colleges.

Juniors Squash Tournaments:

We are the only program in the Nation that hosts one of each of the levels of US Squash tournaments for juniors. This includes the two top events, JCT and Gold, which draws in over 1,000 children and parents, flying in, and staying in the immediate vicinity. These parents are typically from the East Coast or Northern California, matching the Bellevue demographics very well. We are keen to promote the many great things Bellevue has to offer, allowing them the complete experience.

PMI Bellevue Squash Classic:

We have successfully found the desire for professional squash in the local area. We found that in our region, we are able to draw from Canada and throughout the West Coast. Utilizing this fan base, we are able to bring in a comparable demographic to the current Bellevue area, further stimulating the local economy.

Junior Squash Program:

We have created an environment for our kids to grow and interact with one another. Currently we have 60 kids that come three times a week to train. This has been ever expanding as enthusiasm for the sport has grown recently from our efforts.

With our continued efforts to use squash to benefit the local community, youth and economy through the sport of squash, I believe financial support and official partnership with these events benefit the city, community, the sport of Squash, and the youth of Bellevue. We see a financial partnership of \$50,000 from the City of Bellevue benefitting the continuation of these programs and promotion of the City of Bellevue.

Thank you,
Shabana Khan

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