

## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$4,900,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding to support the construction of the Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link Project (Eastrail to Spring Project) 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 \$820,000 and increase the budget for the Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103) by \$5,720,000.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Acceptance of this federally funded grant through WSDOT from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would provide sufficient monetary resources to construct the Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link Project that provides a non-motorized pedestrian-bicycle path connection between Eastrail and NE Spring Boulevard with vital access to Downtown Bellevue. The project will include a 12-foot wide, hard surfaced facility that is anticipated to include trail head treatments, wayfinding and lighting.

## RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6716

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

This new trail link from Bellevue's local roadway network to the Eastrail corridor regional trail will provide vital access between the Eastrail corridor, the BelRed Area and Downtown Bellevue.

Eastrail is a 42-mile north-south regional rail-trail that connects communities from Renton to Snohomish County. The segment in Bellevue currently runs from the Spring Boulevard area north to the Kirkland city limit line where it continues north to the Totem Lake regional growth center. Extensions further north and south are funded for completion in the next few years.

NE Spring Boulevard is a new east-west street with an adjacent pedestrian-bicycle path that extends from NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street over Eastrail, directly connecting Downtown Bellevue to the newly-developing Spring District/BelRed area -- home to Meta, the Global Innovation Exchange campus (GIX; a global partnership between the University of Washington and Tsinghua University in China), and many other built or planned commercial and residential developments.

The Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link will construct approximately 850-feet of critical non-motorized trail linking the north-south "Eastrail" (formerly known as the Eastside Rail Corridor), under development by the King County Parks Department, with the east-west Spring Boulevard pedestrian-

bicycle path. This Trail Link will include a 12-foot wide, hard surfaced facility that is anticipated to include trail head treatments, wayfinding, lighting, and natural storm drainage systems.

The project involves negotiating an approximate 39-foot grade difference between the Eastrail and NE Spring Boulevard elevations. The City has developed a conceptual design for a trail facility that will serve pedestrians and bicyclists and meet ADA accessibility standards.

Previously, in 2020, the City was awarded \$1,282,600 in federal STP grant funding for Design phase work (reference Ordinance No. 6571) which is currently in process. This 2022 grant allows the City to progress to construction and completion of the project.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

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

- TR-2: Strive to reduce congestion and improve mobility.
- TR-23: Coordinate improvements and operations among travel modes and provide connections between modes.
- TR-26: Increase system connectivity for all modes by providing for roadway, pedestrian, and bicycling connections in newly developing and redeveloping areas. Expand arterial capacity in consideration of the multimodal expectations and livability factors for the corridor and neighborhood.
- TR-104: Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities along with other mobility options in planning, developing, and maintaining the transportation system.
- TR-114: Provide for multi-modal transportation use and access when considering public and private projects adjacent to and across Eastrail [the Eastside Rail Corridor].
- TR-131: Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance, and operations.
- TR-136 directs that the City, "Support joint projects, including the contribution of City matching funds, with adjoining cities, King County, the transit providers, or the state, where such partnerships help establish or accelerate projects beneficial to the City."

### **Fiscal Impact**

#### Grant Agreement

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$4,900,000 in federal funding to support construction of the Eastrail to Spring Project as part of the larger Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103). There is a 13.5 percent minimum grant match requirement for this grant. Any additional project costs above the grant award amount will be the City's responsibility. The total cost of construction is estimated at \$5,720,000; therefore, the remaining \$820,000 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 \$820,000 and increase the budget for G-103 by \$5,200,000 to reflect the transfer of funds and recognize the grant award.

### **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 \$4,900,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding to support the construction of the Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link Project (Eastrail to Spring Project) 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 \$820,000 and increase the budget for the Eastrail Project (CIP Plan No. G-103) by \$5,720,000.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Vicinity Map
  - B. CIP Project Description (G-103)
  - C. CIP Project Description (PW-R-206)
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6716

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

PSRC Grant Award Letter  
WSDOT Local Agency Agreement Supplement 01 (draft)