

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Discussion and direction regarding potential ballot measures regarding fire facilities and transportation neighborhood safety and connectivity.

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POLICY ISSUES

Pursuant to RCW 29A.04.330, the last day for the City to file a measure to be placed on the November 8, 2016 ballot is August 2, 2016.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071, the language for a ballot measure consists of three major components: (a) an identification of the enacting legislative body and a statement of the subject matter; (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question. The statement of the subject of a measure must be sufficiently broad to reflect the subject of the measure, sufficiently precise to give notice of the measure's subject matter, yet may not exceed ten words. RCW 29A.72.050. The concise description of the measure is what informs the voters of the primary substance of the proposition before them, and is limited to 75 words. RCW 29A.36.071. For a property tax levy, the question must be phrased in terms of the maximum allowable property tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value for years of the levy term. RCW 29A.36.210.

Pursuant to RCW 29A.32.241, the City Attorney's Office must prepare a short statement explaining each ballot measure.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

☐ Action

☒ Discussion

☒ Information

Staff is seeking direction to place the ballot ordinance for Fire Facilities (Attachment A) and the ballot ordinance for Transportation Neighborhood and Connectivity (Attachment B) on the agenda for Council action on July 25.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Since May, Council has been in a sustained review of the CIP long range financial plan. Starting with the May 16 meeting, staff provided an update on the long range financial CIP planning work, community and

Council priorities, and gaps between those priorities and projected revenues. Conclusions reached include:

- The update to the long range CIP financial plan funding available to address discrete projects (i.e., projects other than debt and ongoing maintenance) remains at approximately \$400 million. The potential projects for the City remain well in excess of that.
- Compilation of themes from historical and recent citizen and business surveys (in no particular order) include traffic congestion/growth, public transportation, public safety, open space/parks, and affordable housing. All of these priorities have existing initiatives that are currently underway, but in some cases, implementation of those initiatives may be at a pace that does not meet community expectations for improvement and investment in the near term.

On May 23, Council was briefed on both the 2014 Fire Facilities plan and on example projects that would be addressed in the area of Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity. Council gave staff direction to include neighborhood congestion in the community outreach, in addition to the neighborhood safety, sidewalk and trail maintenance, new sidewalks/trails, new ITS safety and traffic management projects and new bike facilities. In response, staff did include neighborhood congestion in the public outreach and reducing neighborhood congestion ranked highly in the public feedback.

On June 6, the Fire Department returned to provide revised recommendations that reduced the overall scope and cost of the 2014 consultant plan yet still maintained the goals and needs to be achieved in regard to improved deployment of resources and needed seismic upgrades. Separately, staff also briefed Council on the progress of obtaining a TIFIA loan.

Following the several study sessions in May and June, Council directed staff to take the next steps to pursue a TIFIA loan to address the mobility in BelRed and to pursue community feedback about potential ballot measure(s) approving additional property taxes to accelerate capital investments for both the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity and the Fire Long Range Facilities areas.

At the July 5 meeting, Council received a high-level summary of the feedback developed through that public engagement including (see July 11 Council packet for detailed information):

- Interim results from the online survey,
- Open house feedback, and
- Transportation Commission feedback.

At the July 11 meeting, Council directed staff to return with two draft ballot measures for Council consideration:

1. A 12.5 cent per \$1,000 of assessed value, 20 year Fire Facilities draft ballot ordinance which will include construction of station 10 (downtown fire station), seismic upgrades to all stations, rebuild of station 6 and station 4, and warehouse needs; and
2. A 15.0 cent per \$1,000 of assessed value, 20 year Transportation Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity ballot ordinance which will include:
 - Neighborhood Safety to improve safety for all neighborhood transportation users by more rapidly implementing speed/traffic mitigation projects in neighborhoods and around schools; adding mid-block and lighted crossings; and supplementing the Collision Reduction Program.
 - Reducing neighborhood congestion through projects that provide relief for identified problem areas and where improvement could be accomplished through changes within the existing right-of-way. Funding in this program will improve traffic safety and flow by funding the engineering and design of projects that will ease congestion in and out of neighborhoods.
 - New sidewalks and trails to improve walkability by connecting neighborhoods to gathering places, recreational opportunities and other neighborhoods.

- Enhanced technology for traffic management in order to position the City to take advantage of new technologies to increase network efficiency and improve traffic flow. Funding for this program will improve the city's capability to respond to emerging technologies that improve safety and traffic flow.
- Sidewalk and trail maintenance to repair and improve existing facilities.
- New bike facilities to create a safe and connected bike network for commuting, recreation and family activities.

Council Direction

Staff is seeking direction to place the ballot ordinance for Fire Facilities (Attachment A) and the ballot ordinance for Transportation Neighborhood and Connectivity (Attachment B) on the agenda for Council action on July 25.

Please confirm or provide changes to Attachments A and B, the draft ballot ordinances.

Next Steps

Based upon direction received tonight, staff will place the reviewed ordinances on the July 25 regular session. As a note, the latest Council can take action in order to meet deadlines for inclusion on the November General Election is August 1. In order to move each of the possible ballot measures forward, the Council must take two actions:

- Adopt an ordinance explaining the measure and setting out the ballot language as it will appear on the November ballot; and
- Appoint pro and con committees that will prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to that ballot measure. The pro/con statements will be published in the voter's pamphlet. Each committee is comprised of no more than three people from the public, although an unlimited number of people can assist each committee if necessary. The City has solicited applicants for this process and a slate of potential committee members would be brought forward for action with the potential ballot measures.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Fire Facilities Draft Ballot Ordinance

Attachment B: Transportation Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Draft Ballot Ordinance