

Additional Council Requests

There are several additional requests that Council has raised, which 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.

Who	Which Fund	How Much	What	Update from November 21
TechHire Initiative	General Fund	\$50,000 one-time	Support the local TechHire program by focusing to improve diversity and inclusion in the technology sector	<i>No change in request. Information requested included.</i>
Grand Connection Seed Funding	CIP	\$1,500,000 one-time	Provide additional funding to advance the branding and identity of the Grand Connection	<i>Proposal costs moved to 2019 and 2020; from 2020 and 2021. Updated write up to reflect discussion.</i>
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	<i>No Change in request, write up is updated to reflect discussion.</i>
Squash Program Funding	General Fund	\$50,000 one-time	Support and funding for Squash programs that take place year-long throughout the Bellevue area	<i>Public comment added.</i>

TechHire Initiative (Councilmember Robinson, Councilmember Lee)
(No Change in request. Updated with information request from November 21.)

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. On November 21, Council requested information regarding whether the operating or CIP existing budgets would have capacity to fund TechHire.

Operating Budget

In the current OED General Fund, approximately 72% is categorized as non-discretionary costs including support for OED staff, Visit Bellevue, dues for regional associations like the Trade Development Alliance, and sponsorship for the region's annual Economic Forecast. Those funds support the office's mission and Bellevue's position as an economic leader in the region, but do not directly support day-to-day activities. The remaining 28% covers direct programs like business attraction, business retention, and startup support.

The budget enhancement recommended by the CMO will fund one LTE which will consume 88% of that allocation. The remaining 12% will fund the Bellevue Farmers Market and rental fee subsidies for community business groups using City Hall. The future LTE's bandwidth is already stretched providing administrative support to OED staff, work on Startup 425's engagement with the small business community, managing logistics for inbound business delegations, and research on potential company relocations. Existing staff will use their freed bandwidth to support businesses affected by East Link, further development of the Innovation Triangle partnership, continue work on the Destination Development Plan, continue work with GIX, and oversee contractors for the new TechHire-related activity.

CIP (G-105)

OED's remaining CIP funds have already been allocated to the development of the Startup 425 space at Lincoln Center. The facility's advanced age and deferred maintenance require that OED invest significant funds to ensure the spaces meet the needs of the community. Funds will also be required for continued maintenance on the facility and building systems.

Due to these limitations on available resources, OED is requesting \$50,000 to cover new costs if the Council chooses to pursue TechHire. The TechHire designation does not come with its own funding. The budget enhancement will fund performance based contracts with groups like Eastside Pathways, Impact Hub, and WTIA for deliverables like job fairs, information sessions, and training to the community. Funding may also be used to hire a grant writer to pursue other funding streams as needed. TechHire broadly fosters the inclusion of diverse and traditionally non-tech communities into the talent ecosystem. Those efforts require additional outreach and support that is tailored to the needs and languages of those communities, increasing costs.

This is an entirely new program area for the City, which means there is no internal infrastructure and less institutional knowledge to rely upon. Staff requires the requested support to ensure the program is structured correctly and that promised work is delivered on time.

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)

(Proposal costs moved to 2019 and 2020; from 2020 and 2021. Updated write up to reflect discussion.)

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 in 2019 and 2020.

Preliminary CIP Goals

Design Refinement

Funding already included in the \$2 million Preliminary CIP would provide for design refinements that would strengthen and detail the overall vision for the I-405 crossing and its relationship to the Eastside Rail Corridor. Additionally, design refinement could be completed on a limited number of proposed public space improvements. As part of the design refinement the funding would target “tactical urbanism” opportunities to test some of the concepts developed through visioning and refinement. This would include programming and engagement opportunities that would allow for the measuring of public space performance, and serve as a catalyst for further development.

Physical Improvements

This funding would also contribute to limited physical improvements on the route. These improvements could include implementation of some cohesive design strategies such as vegetation, paving, and programming of public spaces, and the art and culture plan. Implementation would occur at limited and strategic locations along the route. As part of the physical improvements some key intersections have been identified for enhancement, such as raised intersections.

Enhanced CIP Goals

Design Refinement

Additional funding would include the goals of the Preliminary CIP in an expanded and more impactful capacity, as well as several additional refinements and physical improvements. The additional funding would be used to carry the refinement of the I-405 crossing from a vision into a grant ready proposal in preparation of pursuing additional project funding. This would include detailed engineering, transportation, and environmental analysis, in addition to a highly detailed and programmed overall design. Additional funding would also allow for refinement of several

of the proposed public space improvements, as well as the mobility and connectivity proposals, also to a grant ready level of completion. To support the additional refinement efforts, the “tactical urbanism” program would also be expanded, including programming, public engagement, and the measuring of public space performance.

Physical Improvements

Additional funding would allow for a more cohesive and contiguous approach to the physical improvement made along the route. The number of raised intersections, as well as opportunities to implement the cohesive design strategies, could be applied to a broader range of the route, allowing for a more comprehensive vision to be established in the early formative years of the project. Additionally, several impactful arts and cultural elements could be implemented, in support of the arts and cultural elements identified in the Preliminary CIP. In summary, additional funding would allow for an impactful and cohesive suite of improvements that will be identifiable to all users of the entire route, establishing a strong precedent to further advance the vision in coming years.

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)
(No Change in request, write up is updated to reflect discussion.)

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, development of a trail on the corridor has long been a priority of the Comprehensive Plan, the Parks & Open Space System Plan and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. Bellevue is also the permitting authority for the segments that pass within the City limits known as the Wilburton and Lakefront Segments. As such, the City 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 crossings and connections in the Wilburton segment both for the interim trail and the final condition; most notably, the NE 8th Street Overcrossing.

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 Commercial 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, the ERC/Mountains to Sound Greenway connection, and the ERC/Spring Boulevard connection. While the trail is in its interim state, the Council may wish to add local connections from the city's existing trail and sidewalk system to the ERC to help residents and visitors better access the regional ERC trail. The proposed \$500,000 budget item (\$250,000 in 2017; and \$250,000 in 2018) would allow for the City to help advance key crossings and connections to the ERC 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.

Options for CIP funding could include:

- A. Reduce an existing CIP project
- B. Fund through the CIP Council Advancement/Contingency
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Squash Program Funding (Councilmember Lee)

At the November 21 public hearing, Mr. Murad spoke and noted the following data in response to Council request (paraphrased by staff). This proposal would:

- 1. Amplify the squash program to youth as an avenue to college. Currently, they reach about 60.*
- 2. Market the community of Bellevue at a national level.*

This is a copy of the original request:

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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