

# MEMORANDUM

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DATE: April 3, 2018

TO: Members of the East Bellevue Community Council

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*Transportation Department*

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program overview and project update

The 2016 voter-approved 20-year Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy helps to fund a backlog of neighborhood safety, connectivity, sidewalk, bicycle, technology, congestion reduction and maintenance projects. There are currently 43 projects receiving partial or full funding through the Levy Program in 2017-2018. Staff will provide the East Bellevue Community Council an update on the Levy Program including:

- status of 2017-2018 projects, particularly levy-funded projects within and bordering the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) jurisdictional boundaries;
- newly created Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program; and
- process to identify a multi-year list of future levy-funded projects.

The presentation on April 3, 2018 is for information only with no direction or action sought.

## **Levy Funding**

On November 8, 2016, voters approved Proposition 2—also known as the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy—to improve neighborhood safety, reduce neighborhood congestion, install sidewalk, build trail and bicycle facilities, provide safe routes to connect people to schools, parks, transit and other services, and enhance maintenance and technology. The proposition increased the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.150 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2017 and for 19 years thereafter as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW. The levy raises approximately \$7.4 million annually, or \$140 million over 20 years. In February 2017, via Ordinance No. 6346, Council amended the 2017-2018 Capital Investment Program (CIP) to reflect the levy funding by establishing CIP Project PW-R-198 Neighborhood Congestion Reduction (Attachment A) and CIP Project PW-R-199 Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity (Attachment B).

With the exception of neighborhood congestion reduction projects, levy-funded projects originate from established and/or ongoing programs within the Transportation Department. The additional resources provided by the Levy Program allows the City to address backlogged

projects and deliver more projects in these existing program areas consistent with public input received prior to the Levy Program ballot measure vote.

#### **CIP PW-R-198: Neighborhood Congestion Reduction projects (\$2,000,000/year)**

- **Neighborhood Congestion Reduction:** This program advances the study and design of neighborhood congestion reduction projects. In some cases, funding will be used to construct neighborhood congestion reduction projects, or portions therein, and/or be used to leverage additional funding sources, such as grants, to advance construction.

#### **CIP PW-R-199: Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity (\$5,400,000/year)**

- **Neighborhood Safety:** Safety projects include traffic calming, crosswalk improvements and enhancements, pedestrian pathways, radar signs, and school zone improvements.
- **Neighborhood Sidewalk:** Generally, these projects will construct curb, gutter, and sidewalk and will incorporate safety and bicycle elements when prudent and feasible.
- **Bicycle Facilities:** Bicycle facilities range from marked shared lanes, conventional bike lanes, separated bike lanes, and buffered bike lanes. Levy Program dollars help to fund the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program.
- **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS):** This category supports deployment of advanced transportation technologies in line with the city's ITS program and Smart Mobility Plan. Current projects include LED street lighting upgrades, ITS network communication improvements, and advancement of new technology partnership opportunities.
- **Maintenance:** Maintenance projects include replacing/repairing sidewalks, trails, boardwalks, retaining walls, street light systems, and other transportation related maintenance needs.

Projects are either funded wholly by the Levy Program, leverage other existing Transportation Department programs, or utilize other City funding sources, grants, and/or private development opportunities to stretch the Levy Program investment. Levy funding pays for related project costs such as planning, design and public outreach, and supports an increase in staff levels to deliver projects.

#### **2017-2018 Levy-funded Projects**

Following Council's authorization in February 2017 to use Levy funding, staff began planning and designing levy-funded projects in earnest. Most projects were identified through public input through the various existing transportation programs (e.g. Neighborhood Sidewalk, Neighborhood Traffic Safety, Bicycle Rapid Implementation, etc.) and have been backlogged due to funding constraints. Levy-funded projects were also considered for their Citywide geographical distribution, speed of implementation, synergy with other levy and non-levy projects and their funding alignment with the budget process. There are currently over 40 projects receiving Levy Program funding for the 2017-2018 biennium. Some projects include multiple program elements (e.g. both bicycle and safety improvements), resulting in economies of scale and less construction impacts to the public. Levy Program funding allocations are

subject to adjustments based on actual design and construction costs. See Attachment C for a full list and description of Levy Program projects and Attachment D for a map of project locations.

### **Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy-funded Projects**

The Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy program had first year (2017) projects defined through coordination with Council and the Transportation Commission. Council requested a detailed look at the Eastgate area in conjunction with the Land Use Code Amendment. Work with the Transportation Commission in late 2016 through early 2017 resulted in defining two design projects along 150th Ave SE that were levy-funded. Consultant work to take the design for these two projects to 60 percent is underway. The remaining Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy funds for 2017 were allocated toward an update and expansion of the transportation study done for Eastgate originally in 2012. The consultant work on this project was approved by the City Council on March 19, 2018.

In late 2017, staff worked with the Transportation Commission across three meetings to develop the project prioritization framework and scoring criteria to aid in project selection for 2018. The scoring criteria, as well as the Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy program description, are provided in Attachment E. The 2018 work plan can be found in Attachment F.

### **Levy-funded projects within/adjacent to EBCC jurisdictional boundaries**

The following projects are located within the EBCC's jurisdictional boundaries and are scheduled for design and/or construction in 2018. Levy project identification number is listed in parentheses.

#### *Congestion projects:*

- Traffic analysis and conceptual design at the following intersections (#36):
  - Main St and 148<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - NE 8<sup>th</sup> St and 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
  - NE 8<sup>th</sup> St and 140<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
  - Lake Hills Blvd and 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
  - SE 16<sup>th</sup> St and 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
  - SE 24<sup>th</sup> St and 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
  - Lake Hills Blvd and 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

#### *Safety projects:*

- 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE: SE 16<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Streets (#13): Install new flashing yellow arrow traffic signals for protected-permissive left turn phasing in the east-west direction at both SE 16<sup>th</sup> St and SE 22<sup>nd</sup> St at 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, and Richards Rd at SE 26<sup>th</sup> St. (current phase: design)
- Lake Hills Blvd: 148<sup>th</sup> to 159<sup>th</sup> Aves SE (#15): Install new/upgraded pedestrian-activated flashing crosswalk systems on Lake Hills Blvd at the Lake to Lake Trail crossing and 154<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Also install two radar speed warning signs within the project area. (current phase: design)
- Main St: 140<sup>th</sup> to 164<sup>th</sup> Aves SE (#16): Install new/upgraded pedestrian-activated flashing crosswalk systems on Main St at the Lake to Lake Trail crossing at 145<sup>th</sup> Pl NE and at 153<sup>rd</sup> Pl NE. Install two radar speed warning signs within the project area. (current phase: design)

- 156<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Corridor Crosswalk (#18): Install new pedestrian-activated flashing crosswalk systems at NE 1<sup>st</sup> St, NE 4<sup>th</sup> St and NE 6<sup>th</sup> St. Install new sidewalk from NE 1<sup>st</sup> Pl to NE 1<sup>st</sup> St on the east side of 156<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. (current phase: design)

*Maintenance projects:*

- 156<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Corridor sidewalk maintenance (#38): Replace and repair existing sidewalk in the Crossroads neighborhood. (current phase: under construction)

*Bicycle Facilities projects:*

- 156<sup>th</sup> Ave SE: north of SE 22<sup>nd</sup> St to Lake Hills Blvd (#42): Install bike lanes and marked share lane. Construction included with overlay project. (current phase: design)

**Next Phase: Project Identification and Selection**

While 2018 is expected to be an active construction year for levy-funded projects, staff are already looking to develop the next round of levy-funded projects that are to be designed and built through 2020. It is expected that each Levy Program project category will be allocated roughly the same amount of funding as was assigned for the 2017-2018 project selection. As with the first round of project selection, a majority of projects stem from existing programs. Special attention will be paid toward ensuring projects are geographically dispersed across all neighborhoods, and consider other funding opportunities that maximize the return of investment for a project location. A staff-recommended list of projects will be presented to the Transportation Commission and Council in summer 2018. It is expected that projects will be selected every two years.

As with the first project selection process, public input has informed potential levy projects and will continue to do so. This input includes:

- Requests and comments made directly to the program from which levy-funded projects originate (e.g. Neighborhood Sidewalk Program),
- Input received at the project level (e.g. open house about design concept), and
- Public comment at City Council, Transportation Commission or EBCC meetings.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. CIP Project Description (PW-R-198)
- B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-199)
- C. 2017-2018 Levy Project List
- D. 2017-2018 Levy Project Map (including EBCC boundaries)
- E. Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy Program Description and Prioritization Framework
- F. Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Levy Program, 2017-2018 Workplan