

May 14, 2018

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Distribution of the *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan: Volume Two – Interstate 405 Crossing*.

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

On December 7, 2015 Council approved the work plan for the Wilburton – Grand Connection planning initiative. The project has been defined as a Council Priority. In December 2017 Council adopted the *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan – Sequence One*, initiating code and plan amendments and updates. Sequence Two, covering the crossing of Interstate 405 to the Eastside Rail Corridor, will complete the visioning framework of the Grand Connection and lead to the next steps of refinement and implementation.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



The *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan: Volume Two – Interstate 405 Crossing* summarizes the work, alternatives, and next steps for the Interstate 405 crossing segment of the Grand Connection. Staff will present the structure of the document, and review process and timeline that will lead to the Council's selection of a preferred alternative later in 2018.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On December 7, 2015 City Council approved the work plan for the Wilburton - Grand Connection project. The Grand Connection is a Council priority initiative to establish a vision for a non-motorized corridor that connects from Meydenbauer Bay, through Downtown Bellevue, to the Wilburton Commercial Area and Eastside Rail Corridor. The Grand Connection will add a unique and signature element to Bellevue's urban landscape and create opportunities for a new land use and urban design vision for the Wilburton Commercial Area. The vision for the Wilburton Commercial Area is currently being completed by the Citizen Advisory Committee.

The visioning process for the Grand Connection began in April of 2016 following the selection of Balmori Associates as the lead design consultant. The scope of work was divided into two parts. Sequence One addressed the existing infrastructure between Meydenbauer Bay Park and Bellevue City Hall. Sequence Two addressed the Interstate 405 crossing and its interface with the Wilburton Commercial Area and the Eastside Rail Corridor. In December of 2017, Council adopted the *Grand Connection Framework Plan: Volume One* which established the foundation and vision for the first

sequence of work. Upon adoption, Council initiated the work for Comprehensive Plan Amendments, relevant Land Use Code updates, and the development of Design Guidelines. On March 19, 2018 Council approved the contract to begin the development of the Design Guidelines for Sequence One, Old Bellevue to Bellevue City Hall (Civic Center District).

Staff last presented information on the Interstate 405 crossing alternatives to Council on June 19, 2017.

Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan: Interstate 405 Crossing

Volume Two Plan

The *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan: Volume Two – Interstate 405 Crossing* presents the full design concepts for the Interstate 405 crossing segment of the Grand Connection. This information includes the evolution of each of the three design alternatives, key features, and impacts to potential future development opportunities. The alternatives are preceded by background information on the importance of this segment of the route and its relationship to Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area.

The Plan is divided into the following chapters:

- Introduction
- Alternative One – Sculptural Bridge
- Alternative Two – Linear Bridge
- Alternative Three – Lid Park
- Environmental Impact Statement Evaluation
- Next Steps

Each alternative is presented and structured in a manner that exhibits the evolution of each design, a full description of each design including; materials, public open space, relationship to future development in Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area, and comparative summaries of travel distance, high-level cost estimates, and sustainable strategies. The Plan concludes with a comparison of alternatives based on elements reviewed as part of the Wilburton Commercial Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as well as next steps upon the Council's selection of a preferred alternative at a later date.

Process and Continued Engagement

The distribution of volume two of the *Grand Connection Framework Plan* at tonight's meeting will coincide with release of the Volume Two Plan to the public. Staff requests that Council review the Plan and, at a follow up meeting, provide direction and selection of a preferred alternative. Upon selection of a preferred alternative at the future meeting, staff will begin the design refinement of the preferred Interstate 405 crossing alternative.

During the review period staff will make the Plan available on the project and City websites. It will also coordinate online and in person open houses for public and stakeholder review for continued public engagement. Staff will also provide copies of the Plan and presentations to civic organizations, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties such as the Bellevue Downtown Association, Chamber of Commerce, and key stakeholders.

Staff will collect public feedback on the Volume Two Plan and distribute it to the Council in advance of the follow-up meeting. Staff will return in the summer of 2018 to provide the results of public feedback, and to request that Council select a preferred crossing alternative. Selection of the preferred crossing alternative will advance to design refinement, which will focus on engineering, programming, funding, and partnership opportunities.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S)

- A. Grand Connection Route Map
- B. Interstate 405 Crossing – Alternative 1 Rendering
- C. Interstate 405 Crossing – Alternative 2 Rendering
- D. Interstate 405 Crossing – Alternative 3 Rendering

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

- A. *Grand Connection Visioning Framework Plan: Volume One*