

July 16, 2018

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bellevue School District to collaborate on a school safe walk project for Newport Heights Elementary School students. This project will install approximately 445-feet of sidewalk, separated from traffic by a planter strip, on the east side of 117th Avenue SE, north of SE 54th Place and approximately 150-feet of sidewalk on SE 54th Place, east of 118th Avenue SE.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action will obligate the City for up to \$250,000, plus all applicable taxes, to fund construction of the improvements. Sufficient funds exist in the 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy (PW-R-199) project to fully fund this contract.

STAFF CONTACTS

David Berg, Department Director, 452-6468
Mark Poch, Assistant Director-Traffic Management, 452-6137
Karen Gonzalez, Neighborhood Services Manager, 452-4598
Transportation Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Comprehensive Plan:

Transportation Element

- Policy TR-104: Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities along with other mobility options in planning, developing and maintaining the transportation system.
- Policy TR-105: Implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and prioritize projects that address safety issues; provide access to activity centers.
- Policy TR-106: Construct, maintain and repair pedestrian and bicycle facilities in accordance with current standards.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, Newport Heights Elementary School relocated from its previous location on SE 56th Street to 119th Avenue SE. At the time, the Bellevue School District (BSD) installed sidewalk around a portion of the school property, leaving gaps in the sidewalk infrastructure. One of the gaps is next to the ball field on 117th Avenue SE between SE 54th Place and the elementary school driveway, approximately 445-feet to the north. Another gap is on SE 54th Place, east of 118th Avenue SE.

There are many people walking in this area, including vulnerable users of the roadway—school children. Parking on the shoulder of the roadway where pedestrians are walking is also frequent during pick-up and drop-off times, as well as when the field is in use for evening/weekend games. This use is expected to increase with the upcoming improvements planned for the field.

Recently, the BSD submitted permit applications to install an all-weather field at Newport Heights Elementary School. As the installation of these field improvements would impact the shoulder along 117th Avenue SE, the Transportation Department's Development Review staff required BSD to install

walking improvements. However, given that the scope of the field project was small, the City could not require more than an asphalt path unseparated by curbing from the traveled roadway.

Transportation staff are seeking approval to leverage the upcoming field development project and partner with the BSD on installing a standard 6-foot-wide sidewalk. A 9.5-foot landscaped planter strip, to be maintained by BSD, would separate the sidewalk from traffic. At the same time, the BSD contractor will install the missing gap of sidewalk on the north side of SE 54th Place, east of the school's 118th Avenue SE exit. BSD has committed to paying for the design, permits, project management and inspection. The City will fund up to \$250,000, plus all applicable taxes, for the cost of construction.

The 2016 Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy increases the ability of the City to more efficiently install safety improvement projects by taking advantage of opportunities to leverage nearby development projects. The opportunity to collaborate with the BSD on this project emerged months after the development of the 2017/2018 Levy work program. However, the Levy work program has built in flexibility to allow for such leveraging opportunities as long as the projects do not unduly impact City staff and Levy resources. As a result, the Levy team determined this school safe walk project will fit within the 2017/2018 Levy work program. This would be the fifth time the City of Bellevue Transportation Department and BSD have collaborated on traffic improvement projects that share a common goal, enhancing safety for children walking to and from school.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Resolution becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bellevue School District to collaborate on a school safe walk project for Newport Heights Elementary School students. This project will install approximately 445-feet of sidewalk, separated from traffic by a planter strip, on the east side of 117th Avenue SE, north of SE 54th Place and approximately 150-feet of sidewalk on SE 54th Place, east of 118th Avenue SE.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 9435 authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bellevue School District to collaborate on a school safe walk project for Newport Heights Elementary School students. This project will install approximately 445-feet of sidewalk, separated from traffic by a planter strip, on the east side of 117th Avenue SE, north of SE 54th Place and approximately 150-feet of sidewalk on SE 54th Place, east of 118th Avenue SE.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Memorandum of Understanding
 - B. Vicinity Map
- Proposed Resolution No. 9435

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A