

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: September 13, 2018

TO: Chair Wu and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program update

DIRECTION REQUESTED

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion/Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information

As a follow up to the Transportation Commission presentation on October 26, 2017, staff will present an update about the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program (Levy Program) including the status of currently funded projects (2017-2018 cycle) and projects slated for the second cycle (2019-2020). Staff will also present an overview of Levy Program communications.

BACKGROUND AND INFORMATION

The 20-year Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy—approved by voters in November 2016—helps to fund a backlog of transportation projects including safety, bicycle, sidewalk, maintenance, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), and neighborhood congestion reduction projects. With the exception of the neighborhood congestion reduction projects, all levy-funded projects originate from established plans, processes and programs. Effectively, with

the additional resources provided by the levy, the city can deliver more projects in these transportation program areas.

Appropriation for all levy projects totals approximately \$7,400,000 annually:

- \$2,000,000 a year is committed to Neighborhood Congestion Reduction projects (PW-R-198) (Attachment A)
- \$5,400,000 a year is committed Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity projects (PW-R-199) (Attachment B)

Levy Program funding pays for related project costs such as planning, design, construction and public outreach, and supports an increase in staff levels to deliver projects.

Projects are solely funded by levy dollars, supported by other Transportation program funding or further funded by investment opportunities such as grants and/or private development.

Types of Levy-funded Projects

The *Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program* (CIP PW-R-198) advances the study and design of neighborhood congestion reduction projects. Congestion reduction projects ease traffic congestion within, near and between neighborhoods making it easier for people to access goods and services. 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.

Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity (CIP PW-R-199) projects originate from existing programs and vary across five categories:

- *Neighborhood safety* projects include traffic calming, crosswalk improvements and enhancements, pedestrian pathways, intersection and corridor safety improvements to address collision trends, radar signs and school zone improvements.
- *Neighborhood sidewalk* projects generally construct curb, gutter and sidewalk and incorporate safety and bicycle elements when prudent and feasible.
- *Bicycle* facilities range from marked shared lanes, conventional bike lanes, separated bike lanes and buffered bike lanes. The Levy Program funds projects identified in the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program (BRIP).
- *Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)* projects supports deployment of advanced transportation technologies aligned with the city's ITS program and *Smart Mobility Plan*. Current projects include LED street lighting upgrades, performance monitoring

enhancements, ITS network communication improvements and advancement of technology partnership opportunities.

- *Maintenance* projects include replacing/repairing sidewalks, trails, boardwalks, retaining walls, street light systems and other transportation-related maintenance needs.

Public input and Commission Role

Project needs from programs that are allocated levy funding are identified by the community in myriad forums such as online request forms, customer services channels (e.g. MyBellevue), the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP), stakeholder meetings, among others. Once a transportation project idea is received, projects are prioritized according to evaluation criteria established by the existing program.

Over the years, Commission has been directly and indirectly involved in many work programs that source Levy-funded projects. Staff worked with both the Commission and Council on developing criteria with which respective projects are evaluated for the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program, crosswalk enhancement and Neighborhood Congestion Reduction programs. Commission was directly involved in the development of the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program (BRIP), from which Levy-funded bike projects are primarily sourced. In addition to direct involvement, Commission has received updates on Transportation programs that utilize Levy funding to reduce project backlogs. Public comment opportunities were available during these discussions.

Once projects are evaluated and prioritized by the existing program and selected for Levy funding, additional outreach and input opportunities continue throughout the project lifecycle. For example, extensive outreach was conducted in partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association and other stakeholders on the 108th Avenue NE Bikeway Demonstration Project.

2017-2018 Levy-funded Projects

Following Council's amendment to the CIP budget in March 2017, staff began planning and designing the 40+ projects (Attachment C – 2017-2018 Project Map) identified in the first cycle (2017-2018.) As expected, the initial year of the levy involved mostly project scoping and design. By the end of 2018, it is expected that nearly \$6.2 million in projects will be either completed or under construction. For projects that required extensive design and/or outreach, construction is expected in 2019. The table below indicates the progression of projects in each project phase February to September 2018.

Current phase of 2017-2018 Levy-funded Projects	Number of Projects as of 2/26/18	Number of Projects as of 9/4/18
Concept	14	8
Planning	4*	4*
30% Design	0	4
60% Design	9	2
90%-100% Design	7	4
Construction	3	8
Complete	4	13

**Two projects are neighborhood congestion reduction traffic studies and are only scoped for study*

Projects vary in outreach, scoping, design and construction complexity. It is typical that transportation project scopes are adjusted as they move through the project delivery cycle to account for various constraints and opportunities. As projects advance, certain project elements may need to be re-considered. Additionally, opportunity projects may arise. An example of an opportunity project is the interim walkway project on SE 35th Place that was pursued in coordination with King County's Sunset and Heathfield Pump Station upgrade project and completed in August. This project represented an opportunity to leverage construction activity and include a small city-funded walkway that was not scoped as part of the county's project.

It is anticipated that similar adjustments will be made during future project cycles. It is necessary that the Levy Program be flexible to accommodate unanticipated needs, opportunity projects and allocation modifications.

2019-2020 Levy-funded Projects

At the beginning of this year, a process was initiated by staff to identify and select projects for the second cycle (2019-2020) of the levy. Projects identified within existing programs were evaluated for levy funding consideration using the following criteria:

- Addresses a backlog project need
- Consistent with types of projects described in the levy ballot
- Project scopes preliminarily defined
- Opportunities to package similar projects to realize time and/or cost-savings
- Ability to complete project within approximately two years
- Opportunity to partner with other projects (e.g. Overlay Program, School District partnership, grant to leverage investment)
- Projects distributed throughout neighborhoods

There are 46 projects slated to begin in 2019-2020 (Attachment D – 2019-2020 Project Map). As with the first cycle of projects, it is expected that many projects will be scoped, designed and constructed by the end of 2020 and that complex projects will complete construction beyond 2020.

Program Category	Number of Projects	Biennial Levy Funding Allocation	Types of Projects funded (not all projects listed)
Neighborhood Congestion Reduction	4	\$4.0M	Construction of 150th Avenue Southeast southbound right turn lane if CIP proposal is approved, final design of top-ranked project from 2018 traffic studies, and school area traffic management.
Neighborhood Safety	15	\$3.5M	Intersection, crosswalk, and traffic calming improvements. Some projects seek grants, are supported by other levy and non-levy funding, and include partnerships with schools and Parks Department. Projects stem from backlog project lists.
Neighborhood Sidewalk	8	\$3.0M	Some projects seek grants, are supported by base program funding, and combined with levy-funded safety projects. Projects stem from backlog Neighborhood Sidewalk Program project list.
Bike facilities	10	\$1.8M	Continued enhancements to bike infrastructure downtown and in east Bellevue. Projects stem from Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program (BRIP).

Intelligent Transportation System	5	\$1.0M	Continued upgrade of ITS communication network, traffic operations monitoring software, flashing yellow arrow deployment and agency partnerships for transportation technology.
Maintenance	4	\$1.5M	Citywide boardwalk repair/replacement, curb ramp repair in Eastgate and sidewalk panel repair on 112 th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 24 th Street.
Total	46	\$14.8M	

Levy program communications

As the Levy Program continues to evolve, so do communications associated with informing the community about project status, outreach events and financial reporting. New and existing digital and print communications provide various levels of project information and point to opportunities for engagement and participation. For example, a new interactive map showing levy projects is in development and a link to the Levy website has been included in the MyBellevue app.

NEXT STEPS

In 2019, the Commission will receive an update on the Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program and the 2018 Traffic Studies project. Staff will be coming to Commission with the results of the study and a summary of what projects will move onto design. On September 24, the City Council will receive an update on the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. CIP Project Description (PW-R-198)
- B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-199)
- C. 2017-2018 Project Map
- D. 2019-2020 Project Map