

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program update. Staff will provide an update on the status of current projects and the next cycle of projects scheduled for work in 2019-2020.

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## DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

### INFORMATION ONLY

As a follow up to the City Council presentation on Feb. 26, staff will present another 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.

## RECOMMENDATION

N/A

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

### ***Levy Funding***

The Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion levy raises approximately \$7.4 million annually, or \$140 million through 2036. All Levy-funded projects originate from established and/or ongoing programs with the exception of neighborhood congestion reduction projects. The Council designated \$2 million/year for the Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-198, Attachment A) and \$5.4 million/year for safety, sidewalk, maintenance, bicycles and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199, Attachment B).

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

### ***Types of Levy-funded Projects***

The **Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program** (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** (PW-R-199) projects originate from existing programs:

- **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 funds projects identified in the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program.
- **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)** projects 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, performance monitoring enhancements, ITS network communication improvements and advancement of new technology partnership opportunities.
- **Maintenance** projects include replacing/repairing sidewalks, trails, boardwalks, retaining walls, street light systems and other transportation related maintenance needs.

### ***Public Input***

Levy funding addresses a backlog of neighborhood safety and connectivity projects that stem from existing programs (e.g. traffic calming, sidewalk, crosswalk). Project needs from these programs 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.

Staff worked with the Transportation Commission and Council on developing criteria in which respective projects are evaluated for the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program, crosswalk enhancement and Neighborhood Congestion Reduction programs. Additionally, the Transportation Commission and Council have received updates on the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program and other existing programs. 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 108<sup>th</sup> 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.

As of September 10, approximately \$742,000 (of \$4.0 million/biennium) has been expended for Neighborhood Congestion Reduction projects (PW-R-198) and \$4.9 million (of \$10.8 million/biennium) for Safety and Connectivity projects (PW-R-199). Funding not expended by the end of 2018 will carry forward to 2019 to finish design and construction.

The table below indicates the progression of projects from concept to completed construction from February to September 2018.

<b>Current phase of 2017-2018 Levy-funded Projects</b>	<b>Number of Projects as of 2/26/18</b>	<b>Number of Projects as of 9/10/18</b>
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 35<sup>th</sup> Place that was pursued in coordination with King County’s Sunset and Heathfield Pump Station upgrade project and will be completed this summer. 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 allow for accommodating 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 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 private/public partnerships for transportation technology.
Maintenance	4	\$1.5M	Citywide boardwalk repair/replacement, curb ramp repair in Eastgate and sidewalk panel repair on 112 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast and Northeast 24 <sup>th</sup> Street.

<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$14.8M</b>	
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***Levy Program Communications***

As the Levy Program continues to evolve, so does communication 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.

**POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

In July 2016, Council adopted Ordinance No. 6304 concerning a proposition to fund transportation neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion improvements. On November 8, 2016, voters approved Proposition 2 to improve neighborhood safety, reduce neighborhood congestion, install sidewalk, 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 beginning in 2017 and for 19 years thereafter as allowed by Chapter 84.55 RCW.

In February 2017, via Ordinance No. 6346, Council amended the 2017-2018 Capital Investment Program (CIP) to reflect the new Levy Program by establishing CIP Project PW-R-198 Neighborhood Congestion Reduction (Attachment A) and CIP Project PW-R-199 Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity (Attachment B).

In May 2018, Council adopted three-year priorities including using funding provided by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy to improve the safety, transportation and quality of life in neighborhoods.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

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

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A