

CD-44 Grand Connection ImplementationCategory: **Econ Growth & Competitiveness** Status: **New**Department: **PCD**Location **Downtown core-Old Bellevue-Civic Center District.****Programmed Expenditures**

| Programmed Expenditures | Appropriated To Date | FY 2017 Budget | FY 2018 Budget | FY 2019 Budget | FY 2020 Budget | FY 2021 Budget | FY 2022 Budget | FY 2023 Budget |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3,500,000 | - | 500,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | - | - |

Description and Scope

The project includes two complementary planning efforts – establishing a high level vision for the Grand Connection and the re-visioning of the Wilburton Commercial Area. The scope of the Grand Connection is to create a signature element that is both memorable and serves as a unique urban experience while establishing connectivity to Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial area. The entire route will function as a place, situated along a route through Bellevue's core commercial district that attracts people, businesses, and tourists. As part of the high level visioning process, the selected consultant will establish an identity for the route; the signature element that will be the pedestrian span across I-405. The process will also identify small scale easy to implement solutions that will allow for "claiming of the corridor." Art will be a key element along the Grand Connection and will serve as an essential element and amenity to establishing a sense of place. As a long-range project, the early and easy wins will be essential in advancing the vision of the project. These early wins will consist of early implementation strategies that will create the identity of the route and be the initial improvements that will begin advancing the vision. The visioning phase is well underway, including partnering with the Bellevue Arts Museum to host the Grand Connection charrette in April 2016. Staff is now engaging with the Grand Connection consultant team led by Balmori Associates. The second phase of the project, the Wilburton Land Use and Urban Design analysis, will seek to revision the area based on its context and the multi-modal improvements being made in the area. Several road improvements, the Eastside Rail Corridor, East Link light rail, and Grand Connection will all intersect within the Wilburton Commercial area, establishing it as a vital commercial business node in Bellevue's and region's transportation network. Additionally, the area will have new connections to the adjacent high growth areas of Downtown and BelRed. The re-visioning will seek to define the unique niche that will satisfy an unmet commercial and residential demand in Bellevue and the region, while complementing rather than competing with Downtown and BelRed.

Rationale

Establishing the identity of the route will be essential to building momentum that will provide support to the larger improvements that would be made in the future, including the connection across I-405. Furthermore, this work would improve the quality of life and livability for residents and users of the route, creating new opportunities for social engagement, commercial activity, and vibrancy within the Bellevue core. The original scope identified early wins as essential to demonstrate that the project could create change early in the process despite being a long range project. These early wins could also work to advance the original goals of the Pedestrian Corridor, while creating new opportunities for public space.

The funds would be allocated to the recommended and identified changes proposed from the design consultant, as well as ideas derived from the Grand Connection visioning charrette. In addition to creating early physical changes that advance the vision of the Grand Connection, these changes will serve as a demonstration to stakeholders and the public that the City is committed to the project in the near and long term.

The funds allocated would also pursue additional refinement to the original high level visioning. This would allow the City to better assess the full cost of the project as well as detail some of the high level visioning elements as deemed necessary based upon priority of implementation. This would be a necessary and logical step in advancing the vision of the entire project from the visioning stage to implementation.

Environmental Impacts

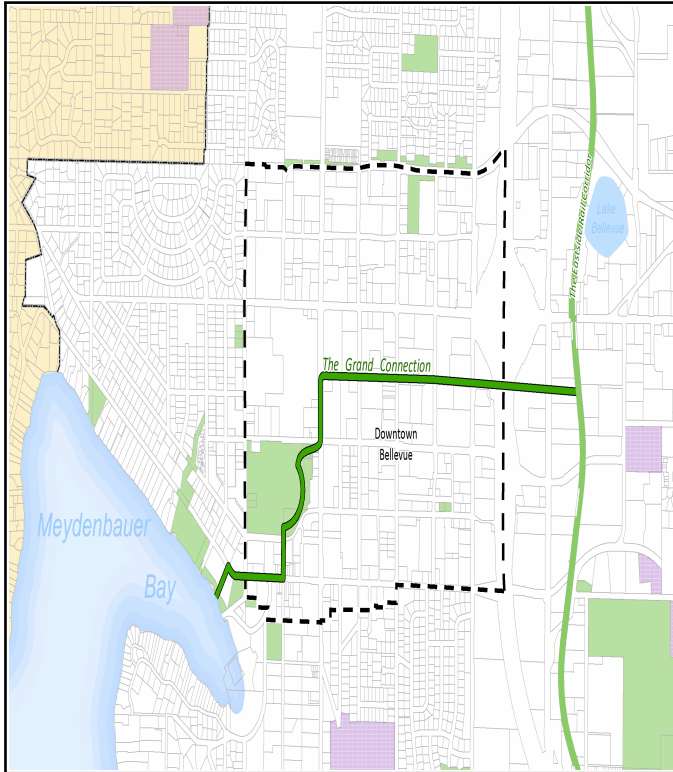
The environmental impacts of the project are to be studied in a joint Environmental Impact Statement that would be part of the Wilburton Land Use and Urban Design analysis.

Operating Budget Impacts

This program will have no impact on operating expenditures.

FY2017-2023 Capital Investment Program

Project Map



Schedule of Activities

| Project Activities | From - To | Amount |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Project Costs | 2017 - 2023 | 3,500,000 |
| Total Budgetary Cost Estimate: | | 3,500,000 |
| Means of Financing | | |
| Funding Source | | Amount |
| General Taxes | | 3,500,000 |
| Total Programmed Funding: | | 3,500,000 |
| Future Funding Requirements: | | |

Comments