

CD-37 Downtown Community/LivabilityCategory: **Econ Growth & Competitiveness** Status: **New**Department: **PCD** Location: **Downtown Subarea****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
4,152,500	-	649,500	799,500	649,500	500,000	500,000	500,000	554,000

Description and Scope

This CIP proposal implements a range of Downtown Community Development initiatives. It would be led by Planning & Community Development staff, and include cross-departmental teams. The components of the proposal include:

Comprehensive Downtown Parking Study: In recognition of a number of parking issues that came before the Downtown Livability CAC, the committee recommended in late 2014 that the City conduct a comprehensive Downtown parking study. Parking issues are multi-faceted, and steeped in consideration of factors such as development economics, the competitive environment, customer convenience and loyalty, and travel behavior. Moreover, there are major differences in approaches to parking for different purposes—commuter, residential, and retail/visitor parking; as well as differences in managing the public and private supply. Parking policy can be quite controversial, and affects virtually every type of Downtown stakeholder: developers, tenants, employees, residents, and visitors. A comprehensive Downtown parking study would require an estimated \$400,000 budget over 18-24 months, targeted for 2017-18. Council would approve a scope and guiding principles prior to project initiation.

Downtown Medians Implementation: Recent City planning efforts have highlighted the need to improve the appearance and experience of streetscapes in Downtown. Guided by the Downtown Livability Initiative, the Downtown Transportation Plan and other planning documents prepared by the City, Bellevue is looking to enhance the aesthetics of the Downtown streetscapes, increase tree canopy, look for opportunities to reduce impervious surfaces, and improve the experience of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers by installing medians where appropriate. Medians can have a dramatic impact within the Downtown by reinforcing the vision of Bellevue as a “City in a Park”, adding interest to the streetscape, supporting traffic calming goals, providing pedestrian refuges at street crossings, supporting key pedestrian routes, and serving as entry features into Downtown and each of its distinct neighborhoods. Medians can also provide operational benefits by enforcing turn restrictions and supporting access management to improve multi-modal operational safety. A 2015 study identified 60 opportunities for medians along Downtown streets, including 22 priority locations. In-house design work will be conducted during the implementation phase to determine project cost at each location. As site conditions vary, costs per location will be different. This proposal asks for \$500,000 per year, for a total of \$3.5 million between 2017-2023. It is estimated this would deliver on average 1.5 new medians per year. Design staffing for this proposal is included in 130.33NA. Staffing will be right-sized based upon the Capital Investment Plan adopted by the City Council. On-going maintenance of the medians would be covered by proposal 100.10NA (Street Trees, Landscaping & Vegetation Management Program).

Downtown Sustainability Features: The Downtown Livability Initiative laid the foundation for transforming downtown Bellevue into a sustainable thriving downtown through changes to the land use code. However, more opportunities exist to enhance the sustainability and livability of downtown through improved urban design and additional sustainability features, such as through improved frontage design to allow for increased tree canopy, improved streetscape design for enhanced walkability/bikeability, along with expanded recycling infrastructure and electric vehicle infrastructure. A portion of this overall work will include a study to identify opportunities to further enhance the livability of Downtown through future capital projects, partnerships, design guidelines, and incentives, which will ultimately increase the “percent of downtown residents who say their neighborhood is a good or excellent place to live” and the “percent of residents who agree or strongly agree that Bellevue is doing a good job planning for growth in ways that will add value to residents’ quality of life.” The study will also include a plan for the expansion of the electric vehicle charging station network, which will support Council’s goal of creating a community that is visionary. The proposed Downtown Sustainability Features study would cost \$75,000 in 2017 and a fund to allow for the replacement and expansion of the electric vehicle charging station network, would cost \$155,000 between 2017-2023.

Open Space/Through-Block Wayfinding: There are a number of existing Downtown publicly accessible open spaces and pedestrian connections through superblocks that are in need of wayfinding. These amenities are key assets for Downtown residents, workers and visitors, but are oftentimes “hidden” because of lack of wayfinding. Staff proposes to implement this signage program over the first three years of the CIP at a cost of \$7,500 per year (total of \$22,500 between 2017-2019).

Rationale

This proposal includes focused implementation of Downtown projects that will:

- Create a path for improving Downtown parking through collaboration and strategic investment following a comprehensive study. The \$400,000 being requested in the estimated amount for this work, provided Council will determine the precise scope prior to project initiation.
- Enhance the aesthetics of Downtown streetscapes, increase tree canopy, and opportunities to reduce impervious surfaces, and improve the experience of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers by installing medians where appropriate. The \$500,000 per year over the course of the CIP will provide funding to implement high priority median locations within Downtown.
- Enhance the sustainability of Downtown by identifying opportunities for improved design and infrastructure, to enhance the tree canopy, recycling, and walkability/bikeability (in collaboration with the Downtown Transportation Plan).
- Provide improved Downtown wayfinding for publicly accessible open spaces and pedestrian connections through superblocks. The \$22,500 being requested will provide capital dollars to retrofit and enhance existing open spaces and connections to work as a system with newer development.

FY2017-2023 Capital Investment Program

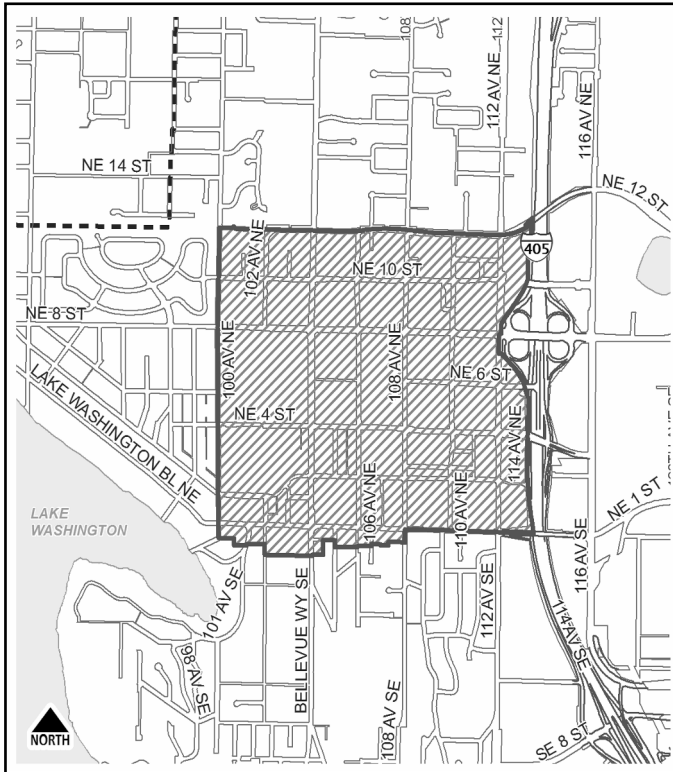
Environmental Impacts

Implementation of these efforts will be done in concurrence with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). It is anticipated that there will be no adverse environmental impacts. Project-specific impacts and benefits will be evaluated as the conceptual design is developed. Median implementation will have a positive environmental impact through increased pervious surfaces and tree canopy. Expanding the electric vehicle charging network Downtown will have positive environmental impacts, by supporting the adoption and use of emissions free vehicles, and reducing the City's greenhouse gas emissions.

Operating Budget Impacts

This program will have no impact on operating expenditures.

Project Map



Schedule of Activities

Project Activities	From - To	Amount
Project Costs	2017 - 2023	4,152,500

Total Budgetary Cost Estimate: 4,152,500

Means of Financing

Funding Source	Amount
General Taxes & LTGO Bond Proceeds	4,152,500

Total Programmed Funding: 4,152,500
Future Funding Requirements:

Comments