

July 17, 2017

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

### **SUBJECT**

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for acceptance of \$778,559 in federal Safe Routes to School Program funding for the Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School Non-Motorized Safety Improvements Project; 2) amending the 2017-2018 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$778,559; and, 3) amending the 2017-2023 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Minor Capital – Traffic Operations program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2) by \$778,559.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$778,559 in federal funding to support the design and construction of non-motorized safety improvements along arterials near Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School, which are planned within the Traffic Operations Minor Capital Program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2). The total cost estimate of this project, including appropriate contingencies, is \$862,707. While this grant program does not require a specific percentage of local funding match, local funds totaling \$84,148 were committed to enhance the competitiveness of the application. Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199) funding will fulfill the committed matching fund allocation for this project.

Project	Safe Routes to School Grant (\$)	Local Matching Funds (Levy \$)	Total (\$)
Sherwood Elem. & Interlake H.S. Non-Motorized Safety	778,559	84,148	862,707

The action will increase both the PW-M-2 program budget and the 2017-2018 General CIP Fund appropriation by \$778,559.

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

David Berg, Director, 452-6468

Kurt Latt, Senior Transportation Engineer, 425-6020

Eric Miller, Implementation Planning Manager, 452-6146

*Transportation Department*

### **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

#### **Comprehensive Plan:**

- TR-116 directs that the City, “Improve the opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross streets at intersections and designated mid-block locations.”
- TR-131 directs that the City, “Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance and operations.”

## **BACKGROUND**

### *Project/Program Background:*

The Minor Capital – Traffic Operations program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2) funds minor capital transportation improvements throughout the City to address traffic operation issues and concerns. Typical projects include new crosswalk installations, sign upgrades, channelization improvements, guardrail, roadway safety and access management improvements, new bike lanes, and bicycle route signing. This program also implements pilot projects using new, innovative traffic control devices and evaluates their effectiveness. This program often provides matching funds to grant funded projects to improve pedestrian, bike and ADA facilities.

On December 5, 2016, Council approved Ordinance No. 6333 adopting the 2017-2023 CIP that continues to include the Minor Capital – Traffic Operations program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2).

In recent years a series of arterial pedestrian crossings in Northeast Bellevue have been identified as strong candidates for safety improvements given their proximity to schools and parks as well as their arterial traffic and pedestrian circulation conditions. These crossings are located along Northup Way and other arterials in the vicinity of Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School. Additional, specific information about the various project elements is outlined in the section below.

### *Grants Background:*

In mid-2016 WSDOT issued a call for applications for two separate grant funding programs, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program and the Safe Routes to School Program. The Transportation Department developed a coordinated package of priority non-motorized safety improvements for submittal to each program based on the programs' eligibility and competitiveness factors. In all, six sites were identified where the benefits will complement each other to further enhance safety and connectivity.

The Sherwood Elementary and Interlake High School Non-Motorized Safety Improvements Project was submitted to the Safe Routes to School grant program and includes crosswalk improvements with rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), walkway extension, and/or sidewalk/curb ramp improvements for ADA compliance at three locations:

1. Northup Way at 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE: Install RRFB system at existing crosswalk.
2. 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE south of NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street: Install RRFB system at existing crosswalk; sidewalk reconstruction and curb ramp improvements for ADA compliance.
3. NE 24<sup>th</sup> Street at 166<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE: Install RRFB system at existing crosswalk; extend walkway to connect with relocated Metro bus stop, and construct other transit access accommodations.

The Northup Way Non-Motorized Safety Improvements Project was submitted to the State Pedestrian and Bicycle grant program and includes rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), marked crosswalks, speed feedback signs, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, and sidewalk extensions at several locations along Northup Way:

1. 166<sup>th</sup> Place NE: Install RRFB system, markings, ADA compliant curb ramps, and walkway at existing crossing location.
2. 168<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE: Install RRFB system, markings, and sidewalk extensions at existing crosswalk location.

3. NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street vicinity: Install marked crosswalk, sidewalk extensions, RRFB system, and eastbound and westbound speed feedback signs approaching NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> the City was awarded a total of \$1,373,745 for both Bellevue projects. The grant funding will supplement local funding to complete the projects' design, property acquisition and construction phases. All improvements are anticipated to be completed before the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. Authorization of the grant agreement and associated budget amendments for the State Pedestrian and Bicycle grant program are included in a separate ordinance on tonight's Council consent agenda.

Both grant programs are highly competitive with numerous local jurisdictions across Washington State competing for a share of the limited state and federal funding to enhance pedestrian (and bicycle) safety. Bellevue's community visioning and ability to strategically group these sites to advance the city's mission of improved pedestrian safety and connectivity bolstered the applications. By leveraging these grant funds, the Transportation Department will be able to have a broader positive impact in accomplishing pedestrian accommodations with sidewalk, crosswalk safety systems (flashing beacons), ADA compliance, and improved transit access.

Project costs over and above the grant awards will be funded by local funding from the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy. The levy, approved by 54 percent of voters, will raise \$140 million over 20 years (15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value), or \$7 million per year. Levy funds may pay for all phases of the projects, including planning, design, right-of-way acquisition and public outreach – not just construction. While applications for the two grants were submitted prior to the levy's appearance on the November ballot, both project packages are consistent with the levy's intent and are included on the initial levy project list. Levy funds will likely be used to leverage additional outside grant funding in the future.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on July 27, 2017.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Approve the Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for acceptance of \$778,559 in federal Safe Routes to School Program funding for the Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School Non-Motorized Safety Improvements Project; 2) amending the 2017-2018 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$778,559; and, 3) amending the 2017-2023 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Minor Capital – Traffic Operations program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2) by \$778,559.
2. Do not approve the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff. By not executing the grant agreement, the City will not be able to access this revenue source to leverage local funding and these important local pedestrian safety enhancements will not be implemented until such time that additional local funds can be identified.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

**MOTION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6361, 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for acceptance of \$778,559 in federal Safe Routes to School Program funding for the Sherwood Forest Elementary School and Interlake High School Non-Motorized Safety Improvements Project; 2) amending the 2017-2018 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$778,559; and, 3) amending the 2017-2023 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Minor Capital – Traffic Operations program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-2) by \$778,559.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Vicinity Map
  - B. CIP Project Description: (PW-M-2)
  - C. CIP Project Description: (PW-R-199)
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6361

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

Draft WSDOT Local Agency Agreement (Federal)