

CD-37 Downtown Community Development Implementation

Category: **Econ Growth & Competitiveness** Status: **Existing**
 Department: **CD** Location: **Downtown Subarea**

Programmed Expenditures								
Programmed Expenditures	Appropriated To Date	FY 2019 Budget	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget
4,152,000	1,449,000	191,000	728,000	728,000	528,000	528,000	-	-

Description and Scope

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

- 1) Comprehensive Downtown Parking Study: Parking policy can be quite controversial, and affects virtually every type of Downtown stakeholder: developers, tenants, employees, residents, and visitors. This study would include consideration of development economics, competitive environment, customer convenience and loyalty, and travel behavior. Funding of \$400,000 is included for a study to begin as early as 2020-2021 based on a Council-approved scope and guiding principles.
- 2) Downtown Medians Implementation: Recent city planning efforts and the city's economic development strategy have highlighted the need to improve the appearance and experience of streets in Downtown. New medians enhance the aesthetics of streetscapes, increase tree canopy, look for opportunities to reduce impervious surfaces, and improve the experience of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. Medians also provide operational benefits by enforcing turn restrictions and supporting access management to improve multi-modal operational safety. This proposal continues an annual allocation of \$500,000 annually, delivering 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).
- 3) 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. As an option, the city may wish to use these proposed funds to undertake an update to the citywide Environmental Sustainability Initiative (ESI) Strategic Plan instead, or in combination with, undertaking the Downtown Sustainability Features study in this time period. The Downtown Sustainability Features study or update to the city ESI Strategic Plan would cost \$75,000 in 2019. An annual fund of \$20,000 from 2019-2025 would allow for the replacement and expansion of the electric vehicle charging station network.
- 4) 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 began implementation in 2018 and will be completed by 2020. Funding of \$7,500 per year in 2019 and 2020 is proposed.

Rationale

This proposal includes focused implementation of Downtown projects that will:

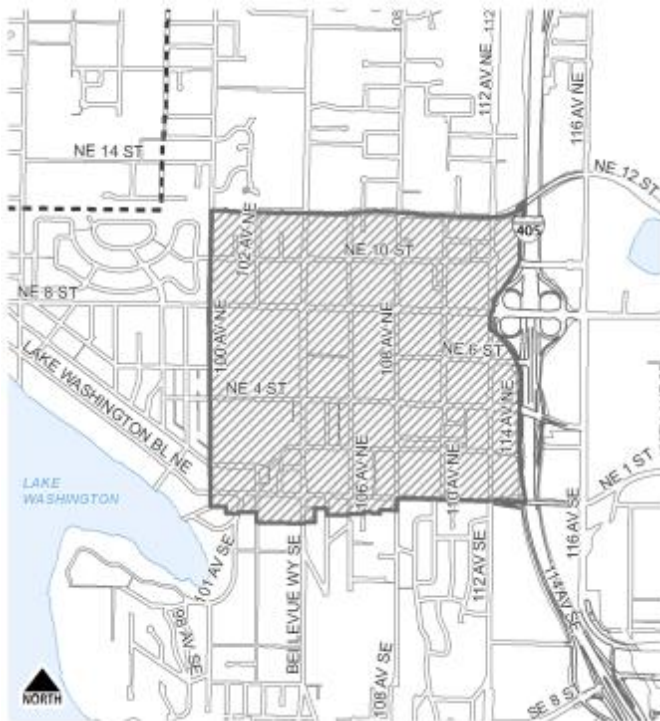
- 1) Create a path for improving Downtown parking through collaboration and strategic investment following a comprehensive study. The \$400,000 being requested in the estimated amount for this work, provided Council will determine the precise scope prior to project initiation.
- 2) Enhance the aesthetics 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.
- 3) 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). Or as an alternative, update the citywide ESI Strategic Plan that includes Downtown.
- 4) Provide improved Downtown wayfinding for publicly accessible open spaces and pedestrian connections through superblocks. The \$15,000 being requested will provide capital dollars to retrofit and enhance existing open spaces and connections to work as a system with newer development.

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. These capital improvements will make Downtown Bellevue more sustainable. For example, 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 Activities	From - To	Amount
Project Costs	2017 - 2023	4,152,000

Total Budgetary Cost Estimate: 4,152,000

Means of Financing

Funding Source	Amount
General Taxes & LTGO Bond Proceeds	4,152,000

Total Programmed Funding:	4,152,000
Future Funding Requirements:	0

Comments