

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$394,000 in state funding to support implementation of the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project; 2) amending the 2019-2020 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$394,000; 3) amending the 2019-2025 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the ITS Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$394,000; and 4) authorizing execution of a Transit Service Funding Agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the King County Metro for the payment of up to \$435,775 to King County Metro to provide and coordinate on-demand transit services for the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Acceptance of this state funded grant from WSDOT would provide sufficient monetary resources to implement Crossroads Connect Mobility Service. The City of Bellevue, in partnership with King County Metro, Hopelink, and Spare Labs is planning to launch this new on-demand transit service this fall that connects the Crossroads and Lake Hills neighborhoods in Bellevue with bus stops at the Crossroads Shopping Center, which serve the RapidRide B-line and local routes 221, 226, and 245. The new on-demand transit service will continue through June 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6524

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Crossroads Connect Mobility Service will be managed by the City of Bellevue and operated by King County Metro and its affiliate Hopelink, a not-for-profit regional transportation service provider.

- The service utilizes a mix of dedicated vehicles (a Metro-owned Nissan Leaf and ADA-accessible van) and non-dedicated vehicles (in this case, taxi cabs) to pick up and drop off riders. These non-dedicated vehicles are dispatched to fulfill transit customer demand when wait times would be long and otherwise unfeasible to support. This model also provides the ability to flexibly scale to meet shifting demand as Metro's fixed-route ridership increases.
- Transit vehicles will be retrofitted to offer a safe travel option in a COVID-environment. At launch, the service will be limited to a single passenger or a party due to concerns about COVID-19. Pooled rides could be introduced later if it is deemed safe.

- This service will primarily be app-based with an option to request a ride through a phone-in service. A qualifying trip will need to originate or be destined for the Crossroads Shopping Center transit stops. Requests for wheelchair accessible vehicles will be available for this service.
- The fare will be the same as riding a Metro bus. A free transfer is provided to Metro fixed routes at the Crossroads Shopping Center bus stops. This service will be linked to the regional ORCA payment system. Qualified riders will benefit from reduced fares through ORCA LIFT and the Regional Reduce Fare Permit (RRFP) programs.
- The pilot project is made possible by a \$394,000 grant from WSDOT. The City of Bellevue will provide up to \$41,775 in partnership funding from the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199). Combined with the City's in-kind staff labor, the grant and levy funding are anticipated to cover all costs of the service.
- Implementation of this project includes (but is not limited to) the following expenditure categories: lease of vehicles; Hopelink transportation services, including vehicle maintenance; fuel; taxicab services; mobile application and analytics platform; marketing and branding; pavement striping and signage; vehicle retrofit for COVID; staff overhead; Hopelink startup and onboarding; and, farebox recovery assumptions.
- A full CIP project description is included in an attachment to this memo.
- A transit service funding agreement between the City of Bellevue and King County is under development and will be brought back for Council action tonight.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The acceptance of this grant and authorization of the funding agreement with WSDOT is consistent with the following policy in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- TR-9 directs that the City, "Coordinate with ... the private sector ... and transit providers to develop and implement ... services to facilitate and increase the use of transit."
- TR-62 directs that the City, "Work with transit providers and other partners to implement the Bellevue Transit Master Plan to ensure that transit is an easy and attractive mobility option for those who live, work, visit, learn or do business in Bellevue."
- TR-131 directs that the City, "Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance and operations."
- TR-136 directs that the City, "Support joint projects, including the contribution of City matching funds, with adjoining cities, King County, the transit providers, or the state, where such partnerships help establish or accelerate projects beneficial to the City."

Fiscal Impact

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$394,000 in state funding to support initiation and operation of the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project. This action will

increase the 2019-2020 General CIP Fund appropriation and the project budget for the ITS Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$394,000. In addition to the state grant funding, the City will contribute up to \$41,775 in partnership funding from the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity Levy Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199) along with in-kind staff labor to cover all costs for this service.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$394,000 in state funding to support implementation of the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project; 2) amending the 2019-2020 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$394,000; 3) amending the 2019-2025 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the ITS Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-156) by \$394,000; and 4) authorizing execution of a Transit Service Funding Agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the King County Metro for the payment of up to \$435,775 to King County Metro to provide and coordinate on-demand transit services for the Crossroads Connect Mobility Service project.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Service Area Map
 - B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-156)
 - C. CIP Project Description (PW-R-199)
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6524

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

WSDOT First Mile Last Mile Grant Program Operating Grant Agreement (draft)
Crossroads Connect Mobility Service Funding Agreement between the City of Bellevue and King County Metro (draft)