

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements as necessary) with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) to accept up to \$75,000 in state funding to conduct year one of the School Zone Ped-Bike Road Safety Assessments (RSA) project adjacent to select schools in the Bellevue School District; 2) amending the 2021-2022 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$75,000; and, 3) amending the 2021-2027 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205) by \$75,000.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468  
Paula Stevens, Assistant Director, 452-2802  
Eric Miller, Implementation Planning Manager, 452-6146  
Franz Loewenherz, Principal Planner, 452-4077  
Mia Waters, Grant Programs Manager, 452-4859  
*Transportation Department*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Ordinance seeks authorization to accept state grant funding from the WTSC to conduct Road Safety Assessments in school zones to help identify safety improvements to protect people walking and bicycling.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6591.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

Based on a comprehensive review of Citywide crash data (2010-2019), the City of Bellevue identified in its Vision Zero Strategic Plan (adopted December 2020) a High Injury Network (HIN) along which 83 percent of serious injury and fatal collisions occur on just 8 percent of the City's total street network. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) identifies Road Safety Assessments (RSA) as a research-proven countermeasure that practitioners can employ to enhance road safety outcomes. Completion of RSAs aligns with Bellevue's Safe Systems based approach towards Vision Zero that includes generating data on travel behavior, patterns, crashes, and conflicts and developing collaborations with other organizations to make streets safer.

In 2021 the City began institutionalizing the RSA approach to identify, prioritize, and implement safety countermeasure improvements along HIN corridors documented in the Bellevue Vision Zero Strategic Plan. The City's first formal RSA (conducted in March 2021) on NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, in collaboration with regional (King County Metro), state (Washington State Department of Transportation), and federal (FHWA) partners, helped determine what improvements are needed to make the roadway safer in that location.

This grant project supports Bellevue in institutionalizing the RSA approach, building upon recent accomplishments, to inform implementation of future improvements such as radar feedback signs,

pedestrian crossings, left turn pockets, restricted turn movements, medians, and other elements that produce improved safety outcomes.

When year one and year two work for this grant is combined, this project aims to evaluate 11 miles of the HIN that are in proximity to Bellevue schools and have experienced a total of 29 serious injury crashes and six fatal crashes between 2010 and 2019. Of those 35 crashes, 13 involved people walking or biking. Results from the school-focused RSA evaluations will inform the City on how and what to invest in to improve safety along our HIN to reduce crashes and serious injuries.

In the first year, completion of these RSAs will help identify safety improvements to protect people walking and bicycling along 6.8 miles of Bellevue's HIN adjacent to six schools in the Bellevue School District: 1) Sherwood Forest Elementary; 2) Interlake High; 3) Highland Middle; 4) Sammamish High; 5) Stevenson Elementary; and, 6) Odle Middle schools.

If the second year of analysis is funded, the City will complete RSAs along an additional 4.3 miles of High Injury Network roadway adjacent to six more schools in the Bellevue School District, for a total of 12 schools: 7) Lake Hills Elementary; 8) Big Picture Alternative Middle/High; 9) Phantom Lake Elementary; 10) Tillicum Middle; 11) International High; and, 12) Newport High schools.

The overall goal of this project is to leverage data systems, diverse community insights, and industry best practices to document and prioritize short, medium, and long-term safety solutions that will be implemented through the City's Capital Investment Program. This work aims to break out follow up efforts into options that can be advanced by the City, community members, and schools, working together and working individually.

Completion of these RSAs informs the City's Vision Zero team on where to target safety countermeasure improvements within and approaching school zones along the HIN. RSAs are an effective tool for proactively identifying the unique needs for each school zone to improve safety for students (walking and riding) and pass-through vehicles. These insights will inform the City's implementation of safety solutions as part of the Vision Zero Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP PW-R-205), enhance safety outcomes for vulnerable road users traveling through Bellevue's school zones, and support Council's goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

Acceptance of this state funded grant through the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) would provide sufficient monetary resources to conduct three RSAs from August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Based on successful completion of this first year, WTSC may provide additional funding to conduct three more RSAs as part of a second year of study from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

A match for this project is funded through the Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP reference PW-R-205).

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

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

- TR-53. Maintain and enhance safety for all users of the roadway network.

- TR-61.2. Develop a programmatic approach to Vision Zero that integrates components of Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Equity and Evaluation.
- TR-131. Seek state and federal funds for transportation capital, maintenance, and operations.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Executing the grant agreement will provide, on a reimbursable basis, up to \$75,000 in state funding, with an option to supplement should WTSC award funding for a second year for an additional estimated \$75,000 plus 25 percent match, to conduct the School Zone Ped-Bike Road Safety Assessments Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205). The total cost to conduct year one of this project is estimated at \$96,172; the local match funding of \$21,172 will be funded by the Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205). This action will increase the 2021-2022 General CIP Fund appropriation and the PW-R-205 project budget by \$75,000.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Ordinance 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements as necessary) with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) to accept up to \$75,000 in state funding to conduct year one of the School Zone Ped-Bike Road Safety Assessments (RSA) project adjacent to select schools in the Bellevue School District; 2) amending the 2021-2022 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$75,000; and, 3) amending the 2021-2027 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Vision Zero Rapid Build Data Driven Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-205) by \$75,000.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

- A. Vicinity Map
  - B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-205)
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6591

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

WTSC grant award  
WTSC Agreement (draft)