

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Authorize the City Manager to Release Grant Funding for the Interurban Trail Bridge Trail Project
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Arthur E. Maronek, Interim Public Works Director

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT: The City of Shoreline has been awarded grant funding for the Interurban Trail Project in the amount of \$534,292 from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) through the Target Zero Grant Program. The grant requires that the City obligate the grant funds through the execution of a grant agreement by January 31, 2002.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED: Staff has prepared the following alternatives:

- Authorize the City Manager to sign a Local Agency Agreement to secure the bridge grant funds totaling \$534,292 from the Target Zero Grant Program
- Take no action at this time and authorize the City Manager to release the grant funds back to the WSDOT and WTSC Target Zero Grant Program (Recommended)

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The Interurban Trail Project is identified in the City's 2001 –2006 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The pedestrian bridge portion of this project, however, is not fully funded. The Target Zero Grant Program funding totaling \$534,292 could be combined with other funds that may be awarded for this project. The City has pledged a match of \$267,146 (50% of grant amount) of City or other funds. This grant was requested for use during the design of the bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians to safely cross Aurora Avenue at North 155th Street. The acceptance of the grant would require the City to complete this project by 2004 or reimburse the funds. This would require the City to both commit to funding the \$3.5 million estimated cost of the project and make this project a priority in the City's current capital program. These funds are identified in the following funding table for this project:

Segment	Est. Cost	Grant Funds	City Funds	To Be Funded
South (145 th St. – 155 th St.)	\$1,107,000*	\$820,000	\$287,000	\$0
South Central (155 th St. – 175 th St.)	\$1,270,000	\$985,000	\$285,000	\$0
North Central (175 th St. – 185 th St.)	\$751,000	\$0	\$147,000	\$604,000
North (185 th St. – 205 th St.)	\$1,785,000	\$1,487,000	\$298,000	\$0
Bridge At N. 155th St.	\$3,474,000	\$534,292	\$600,000	\$2,340,000
Total	\$8,387,000	\$3,826,292	\$1,617,000	\$2,944,000

* Includes \$250,000 project start-up costs incurred before 2001

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to release the grant funds totaling \$534,292 back to the WSDOT and WTSC Target Zero Grant Program.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 

INTRODUCTION

Staff is committed to researching the availability of financial resources with other agencies to obtain funding for any aspect of the Interurban Trail Project. On May 18, 2001, staff submitted an application to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) requesting funding to design a bridge to provide a safe passageway for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross Aurora Avenue at North 155th Street. WSDOT and WTSC have approved the City's application from the Target Zero Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The Interurban Trail Project is identified as Goal No. 3 in the Council's 2000 – 2001 Work Plan. On October 8, 2001, Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Project Agreement to secure funding from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation for the Interurban Trail Project. Since then, staff has been working towards completing the design of the north and south segments of the project, and is moving forward with the design of the south central segment (155th Street to 175th Street).

The Project is being designed to function without a pedestrian bridge across Aurora at 155th. The construction of the pedestrian bridge is not currently funded in the City's adopted or proposed Capital Improvement Program. Staff will continue to seek grant funding or other resources to construct this crossing, but when or if this project will move forward is not clear at this time.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

The Target Zero Grant Program funds totaling \$534,292 are for the design and preliminary engineering costs associated with construction of a bridge at Aurora Avenue and North 155th Street. These funds are federal funds that are administered through WSDOT. The following provides staff's analysis of the potential alternatives:

Alternative 1: Authorize the City Manager to execute a Local Agency Agreement to secure the bridge grant funds totaling \$534,292 from the Target Zero Grant Program. This alternative incorporates the following key elements of the Target Zero Grant Program:

- Provides financial assistance for the design and preliminary engineering for the construction of the Interurban Trail Bridge at Aurora Avenue and North 155th Street
- Requires a City local match of \$267,146 if the entire grant is expended
- The City is making a commitment to design and construct the bridge within three years from the award notification letter dated August 2, 2001. This would establish a project completion date of August 3, 2004. An annual extension may be granted from the awarding agencies if the project is nearing completion and additional time is needed to complete construction of the project.

Whether the City should expend these funds, however, is still an open question that staff proposed to address during its review and refinement of the current Capital Improvement Program.

Alternative 2: Take no action and release the grant funds back to the WSDOT and WTSC Target Zero Grant Program. This alternative is supported by the following:

- The local match obligation for this grant is high especially considering that the construction of this portion of the Trail Project is not currently funded
- The City would be in a better position to design the bridge when other major elements of the trail project have been completed using City funds or other grant resources that may be researched and available for this type of work
- The City could utilize staff resources on other higher priority capital improvement projects
- The City would have additional time and flexibility to review the bridge option to determine its feasibility and incorporation into the overall project time schedule

Alternative Analysis Regarding Pedestrian Crossing

Staff is recommending the addition of a feasibility analysis to the CIP at a future time consistent with the priority of this phase of the Interurban Trail project. A systematic review of crossing options, feasibility, and cost estimation has not been undertaken. By completing a feasibility analysis that determines whether or not a pedestrian bridge can be constructed while meeting WSDOT roadway standards and Seattle City Light power line clearance requirements for the current and future transmission tower and cables first, staff will gain crucial information to be considered with Council as part of deciding whether seeking grant funds to complete the crossing at the Aurora Avenue and North 155th Street intersection is an appropriate course of action. Consideration of this feasibility analysis should be part of the Council's deliberation during the February 2002 update of the Capital Improvement Program. Staff does not recommend committing to the design and construction of a bridge in the absence of this information.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to release the grant funds totaling \$534,292 back to the WSDOT and WTSC Target Zero Grant Program.