



2019 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - DRAFT

PROJECT REQUESTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FEDERAL REQUEST

Beech Street Extension

\$3,000,000

The project will construct a public street approximately 2000' in length from 14th Ave. to California Way including: curb, gutter, sidewalk, illumination, storm drainage, and intersection improvements. The new street will provide a connection between Oregon Way and California Way through a large, undeveloped area that lacks an east-west corridor. Development of the area has been difficult without direct access to public streets. The project will facilitate development of undeveloped and under-developed commercial/industrial land between Oregon Way and California Way promoting opportunities to diversify and improve the economic stability and prosperity of the area.

Biodiesel Bus Replacement

\$1,560,000

The City is seeking federal funds to replace the four oldest, and only remaining high-floor biodiesel buses in the fleet in order to maintain a reliable fleet. As RiverCities Transit has increased service provided to the communities of Longview and Kelso, the vehicle fleet has expanded and vehicles are running more miles and are in service longer now than in years past. Funding will help the City purchase four low-floor replacement biodiesel coaches to replace 15 and 16 year old buses that have long exceeded their useful lives and have over 410,000 miles on average. Account: FTA Bus and Bus Facilities

Columbia Heights Road

\$5,000,000

The project will improve approximately 1 mile of Columbia Heights Road. The existing roadway is a 20-foot wide, winding urban collector in a steep hillside area paved with bituminous surfacing, with no sidewalk and very narrow shoulders, very limited street lighting, and no storm drainage system. With no sidewalk and very narrow shoulders, Columbia Heights Road is a dangerous route for cyclists and pedestrians, especially for school children on the way to and from Columbia Heights Elementary and Cascade Middle School. The scope of the project is to widen the existing roadway to 24 feet and provide curb, gutter, sidewalk on one side of the roadway, and a wide shoulder with guardrails on the other side of the roadway. The project will also provide storm drainage and improve illumination. The benefit of this project will be to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic and improve safety of the roadway.

POLICY AGENDA

Infrastructure Package – Transportation, Housing and Water Infrastructure Spending

The City supports additional transportation, housing and water infrastructure spending to help address the growing infrastructure backlog in our community and communities around the country.

FY 2020 Program Levels

Maintain adequate funding levels for CDBG, HOME, BUILD, BYRNE Justice Assistance Programs, Economic Development Administration and Assistance to Firefighters funding.

Increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by 50%

The Housing Credit is our nation's most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and preservation of affordable rental housing production. It has financed nearly 3 million affordable apartments since 1986, providing homes to roughly 6.5 million low-income households since then, while transferring risk from the government to the private sector. To make a meaningful dent in the affordable housing supply gap, we urge Congress to pass Senator Cantwell's legislation to increase the cap on Housing Credit authority by at least 50 percent. Such an expansion would support the preservation and construction of 350,000 to 400,000 additional affordable apartments over a ten-year period. There is ample developer and investor appetite for Housing Credits to support such an increase.

Extend and Make Permanent the Alternative Fuels Credit

The City of Longview supports a permanent extension of the Alternative Fuels Tax Credit as the City is transitioning vehicles in its fleet to a propane blend that reduces emissions and saves on operating expenses. In 2016, the City began the fleet conversion by purchasing three alternative fuel propane paratransit mini-buses, new and replacement sedans and pickup trucks propane capable and install propane conversion kits, and install propane fueling equipment at the City's fueling facility. The lifetime Alternative Fuel Tax Credit savings for just the three paratransit vehicles is approximately \$40,000. In addition, 90,000 fewer pounds of carbon dioxide would be produced over their useful lives.

Regulatory Concerns and Unfunded Mandates

Waters of the US: The impacts of the rule released by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would amend the definition of "waters of the U.S." and expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The City supports the objective of ADA to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities. However, the strict nature in which the regulations are applied can be costly and provide little to no benefit. The City supports common sense implementation of ADA regulations with room for flexibility when dealing with unique circumstances.

Contact: Joel Rubin
CFM Strategic Communications
202-347-9171
joelr@cfmdc.com