

Legislation Details (With Text)

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| File #: | 18-5419 | Version: | 1 | Name: | CITY OF LONGVIEW HOME AND CDBG GRANT PROGRAMS |
| Type: | Agenda Item | Status: | | Status: | Passed |
| File created: | 4/19/2018 | In control: | | In control: | Community Development Dept |
| On agenda: | 4/26/2018 | Final action: | | Final action: | 4/26/2018 |

Title: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED 3RD AVENUE AND 30TH AVENUE MIDBLOCK PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND STATUS OF OTHER PEDESTRIAN AND CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:
Improve transportation systems
Address quality of place issues

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

At the August 24th, 2017 City Council meeting, the City Council discussed installing midblock crosswalks with warning devices at two locations: 3rd Avenue north of Hudson near the two Canterbury facilities, and 30th Avenue in front of Columbia Valley Gardens Elementary School (CVG). The City Council concurred with staff's recommendation to hire a traffic engineering consultant to evaluate the two locations to comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices requirement for an engineering study before installing a midblock pedestrian crossing. The traffic engineering firm Kittelson and Associates (KAI) was retained to study the proposed crossings; however, their work was delayed due to Cascade Natural Gas construction significantly disrupting traffic along 3rd Avenue until mid-February 2018, at which time accurate data could be collected.

KAI met with constituents, performed field observations, and collected vehicle and pedestrian data. KAI used methodology from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 562, "Improving Pedestrian Safety at Unsignalized Crossings," to develop findings and recommendations for crossing treatments.

KAI's findings for the 3rd Avenue location do not support installing a midblock crossing due to insufficient pedestrian crossing volume. KAI recommends monitoring the location and considering installing a midblock crossing if pedestrian crossing volumes increase to a consistent 20 or more crossings in any one hour each day. KAI does recommend making the following upgrades at the 3rd Avenue/Hudson Street intersection to improve pedestrian safety:

- Modify eastbound approach to provide a dedicated left-turn lane and shared through/right-turn lane
- Modify signal timing to provide a lagging protected left-turn phase
- Upgrade pedestrian signal heads to countdown heads and increase the walk time for the east/west pedestrian crossing movement.

KAI's findings for the 30th Avenue location do not support installing a midblock crossing because it would improve safety only if pedestrian crossings were shifted from one or both of the school crossings at Pine Street or Pennsylvania Street, and it would not alleviate the pickup and drop off congestion and safety issues on the school property. Because of the intense circulation issues at CVG, KAI did not feel confident that shifting pedestrian crossing patterns would be successful and recommends working to improve the existing school crossings with the following improvements:

- Advance stop bars

- “Stop Here For Pedestrian” Signs
- Continued training for crossing volunteers
- Parent pick-up education relating to alternate pick-up locations.

Long term, KAI recommended:

- Staggered release times
- Separating bus traffic from parent traffic in the drive aisle
- Remove on-street parking on the west side of 30th Avenue to discourage midblock crossings

At the workshop, KAI and City staff will discuss the report findings and recommendations. Staff will also provide a status update regarding other pedestrian safety and crossing improvements.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

At the October 12, 2017 Workshop, the City Council approved use of the Public Safety Fund to pay for crossing improvements. The costs of the midblock crossings were previously estimated at \$120,000 each, but the costs for the signal modifications have not yet been estimated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion directing staff to

- Upgrade the 3rd Avenue/Hudson Street intersection
- Periodically count pedestrian crossings on 3rd Avenue north of Hudson Street
- Install recommended additional signs and markings on 30th Ave
- Work with Longview School District on circulation and safety improvements at Central Valley Gardens school

STAFF CONTACT:

Manuel Abarca, PE, Traffic Engineer

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Links to 2014-2018 Consolidated Housing and Community Dev Plan, 2. City of Longview 2016 CAPER, 3. For reference: 2012 Council workshop presentaion on CDBG & HOME Entitlement

| Date | Ver. | Action By | Action | Result |
|-----------|------|--------------|----------|--------|
| 4/26/2018 | 1 | City Council | approved | Pass |

CITY OF LONGVIEW HOME AND CDBG GRANT PROGRAMS- COMPLETION OF THE 2014-2018 CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:

Strengthen economic conditions & create new opportunities
Address quality of place issues
Improve streets and roads

CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW:N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The City of Longview CDBG program and the Longview-Kelso HOME Consortium grant program provide nearly \$500,000 annually for projects meeting the funding requirements of the federal government under HUD. These projects must primarily benefit low and moderate income residents and may involve economic development or infrastructure and can include creation of affordable housing, rehabilitation of housing for low-income residents, infrastructure and elimination of slums or blight.

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in

our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation.

- Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people.

- Participating jurisdictions may choose among a broad range of eligible activities, using HOME funds to provide home purchase or rehabilitation financing assistance to eligible homeowners and new homebuyers; build or rehabilitate housing for rent or ownership; or for "other reasonable and necessary expenses related to the development of non-luxury housing," including site acquisition or improvement, demolition of dilapidated housing to make way for HOME-assisted development, and payment of relocation expenses

This year marks the end of the Longview-Kelso Consortium 2014-2018 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan. HUD requires all communities to prepare and follow a plan to address the needs of low and moderate income residents with HOME and CDBG funds. The Consolidated Plan contains a strategic plan identifying specific goals to be met with funding during the consolidated plan period. Progress in meeting these goals is reported to HUD annually. At the workshop staff will discuss the progress made so far in meeting the goals of the strategic plan. This year's HOME and CDBG grant allocations will represent the last opportunity to address the strategic plan goals of the current consolidated plan. Staff will request funding to support the creation of a new consolidated plan for the 2019-2023 period.

The workshop will also provide a review of the CDBG, HOME and Document Recording fee grant programs.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

The City has received approximately \$500,000 in combined funding for HOME and CDBG, a portion of which is provided for the City of Kelso to allocate. Funding to administer the grants is also provided but has not completely covered the cost in staff time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion directing staff to prepare a 2018 request for proposals to complete the goals identified in the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan strategic plan.

STAFF CONTACT:

Adam Trimble, Planner/Grant Coordinator