



**TO:** Mayor Lee and City Councilmembers

**FROM:** David Berg, Transportation Director, 452-6468

**DATE:** June 17, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Annexation Area Transportation Capital Investment and Newport Way Sidewalks

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**Background:**

In mid-2012 the City annexed four areas south of Interstate-90 that were formerly part of unincorporated King County, including the Eastgate, Tamara Hills, Horizon View, and Hilltop neighborhoods. Due to their previously unincorporated status, the specific transportation system needs, issues, and opportunities in the areas had not been comprehensively evaluated in the context of current City development standards or of transportation funding priorities City-wide. Associated with annexation, the County transferred a sum of \$1,068,000 in previously collected Road Services Fee revenue to the City. These funds are solely eligible for use on maintaining or improving transportation system infrastructure within the annexation areas.

At the time of annexation the City was in the midst of updating the 2013-2014 Budget and 2013-2019 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. Transportation staff developed a budget proposal to: 1) conduct an assessment of transportation capital needs and opportunities in the annexed neighborhoods; 2) implement smaller scale maintenance or improvement projects with the available Road Services Fee revenue or other ongoing capital program resources; and, 3) identify and refine larger scale project scopes and cost estimates for implementation over time through future funding cycles. The adopted 2013-2019 CIP included a project entitled Annexation Area Transportation Capital (CIP Plan No. PW-R-180).

The annexation area assessment, conducted in late 2012 and early 2013, included a survey of roadway and/or right-of-way maintenance needs, Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance issues on existing pedestrian facilities, neighborhood and school access sidewalk and other pedestrian/bicycle facility improvements, vehicular or non-motorized system safety needs, and roadway/intersection improvement opportunities, especially on key arterials including 150th Avenue SE and Newport Way. Many of the identified transportation needs are consistent with input provided by annexation area residents received during the annexation process and in City-facilitated community outreach events occurring since annexation. The assessment process categorized identified needs and opportunities as follows:

Streets Maintenance Issues (inventory ongoing):

- Pavement, sidewalk, curb ramp, safety rail and fence repairs
- Sign, pavement marking and guardrail replacement/repairs
- Hazardous tree evaluation/removal.

Minor Capital Improvements Identified (estimated costs less than \$1 million):

- Newport Way/150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Intersection Improvements (Interim)
- Eastgate Elementary School Neighborhood Sidewalk (Newport Way-150<sup>th</sup> to 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenues SE)
- 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Guardrail – between SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street & Newport Way
- 4515 - 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Sidewalk Gap
- 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Lighting Upgrades, Newport Way to 162<sup>nd</sup> Way SE
- 136<sup>th</sup>/138<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Traffic Calming/Traffic Improvement Plan
- 146<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Traffic Calming/Traffic Improvement Plan
- 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE/SE 46<sup>th</sup> Street School Zone/Traffic Calming/Traffic Improvement Plan.

Major Capital Improvements Identified (estimated costs greater than \$1 million):

- Newport Way Improvements – Somerset Boulevard to 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE
- Newport Way Improvements – 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to Lakemont Boulevard
- 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE – south of SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street to south of Newport Way
- Allen Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements.

**Current and Near Term Investment**

Transportation/Streets Maintenance staff continues to inventory, make necessary repairs, and perform routine maintenance on existing infrastructure elements in the annexation areas. A critical signs inventory has recently concluded and over 60 stop and other traffic signs have been repaired or replaced to meet current reflectivity standards. Close to 100 individual potholes or other pavement repairs have been conducted, approximately 23 lane miles of roadway have been swept, six miles of roadside vegetation has been mowed, and three hazard trees have been mitigated through early June.

Transportation-focused ongoing capital programs including, but not limited to, Street Overlays (CIP Plan No. PW-M-1), the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (PW-M-7), Minor Capital – Signals & Lighting (PW-M-20), and Pedestrian & Bicycle Access Improvements (PW-W/B-56) have begun evaluating investment options in the annexation areas among their identified priorities from throughout the entire City. The Transportation Department has already begun to leverage the resources of these programs with the King County Road Services Fee revenue. The following improvements are underway or planned within the 2013-2014 biennium:

- Newport Way/150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Intersection Improvements (Council awarded construction contract on May 6, 2013; funded by PW-M-20, PW-M-1 and a portion of the Annexation Area Transportation Capital funds, PW-R-180)
- Eastgate Elementary School Neighborhood Sidewalk (pre-design underway; construction projected for mid-2014; funded by PW-R-180)
- 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE/SE 46<sup>th</sup> Street School Zone/Traffic Improvement Plan (implementation complete in 2013; funded by PW-M-7)

- 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Guardrail – between SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Newport Way (evaluation underway in 2013; if feasible, funded by Major Safety Improvements (PW-R-46) and balance of PW-R-180 funds).

**Major Project Implementation Planning Process:**

As indicated above, the annexation area assessment identified several major project needs on Newport Way (2 segments), 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and Allen Road. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Newport Way have long been envisioned by the City, even before annexation. The City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan indicates that sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of Newport Way to the east of Somerset Boulevard are a high priority. These improvements would be consistent with the City- constructed improvements west of Somerset Boulevard. Associated with the annexation area assessment, Transportation staff prepared a preliminary cost estimate of the full build-out of Newport Way consistent with earlier planning documents, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes and other needed roadway/stormwater improvements between Somerset Boulevard and 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Costs for the full project are currently estimated to exceed \$10.5 million.

Staff also updated estimated costs for the completion of previously planned and designed improvements to 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Improvements implemented as part of an earlier joint City and county project were truncated south of SE 38<sup>th</sup> Street due to the County's lack of funds. A new cost estimate to complete those roadway and sidewalk improvements on 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE through the Newport Way intersection currently exceeds \$5.5 million. To date no updated cost estimates have been developed for improvements to Newport Way east of 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE or for improvements to Allen Road.

Clearly these project costs far exceed the financial capacity of the Annexation Area Transportation Capital fund and City's ongoing capital programs. Any one or all of these projects may ultimately be funded for something less than full implementation, or may be implemented in phases or segments. Often projects of this scale are initially funded for a pre-design phase in which a community outreach and involvement process takes place. These processes are intended to help determine the priority segments and/or priority scope components of major projects. Also, a project that has an advanced design completed, with implementation issues and cost estimates refined, becomes a more competitive candidate for state and federal grant programs.

As Council is aware, 2014 is another budget update year for the City. Staff, in coordination with the Transportation Commission, will develop a capital budget proposal for at least pre-design funding for the segment of Newport Way between Somerset Boulevard and 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. This proposal will then compete with all other capital funding priorities – transportation and otherwise – identified and proposed throughout the City.