

DATE: November 1, 2022

TO: Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members

CC: Rebecca Kennedy, Community Development Department

FROM: Ryan Lopossa, Public Works/Streets & Transportation Division

RE: **2022 Multimodal Safety & Accessibility Construction Projects**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update regarding construction projects being completed as a part of the City's 2022 Multimodal Safety & Accessibility program. The program strives to improve our transportation system for those that use modes of travel other than a traditional automobile. This includes enhancements that benefit pedestrians, bicyclists, users of other rolling and mobility assistive devices, and those accessing transit. We have several projects currently under development that are a part of this program.

- **Devine Road Multi-Use Path Improvements:** The scope of this project includes construction of a new multi-use path along the west side of Devine Road between Idaho Street and the existing enhanced pedestrian crossing located at the Burnt Bridge Creek Greenway. This builds upon the new enhanced pedestrian crosswalk that was constructed on Devine Road at its intersection with Idaho Street in 2020.

The goal of the project is to improve pedestrian access within the Harney Heights and Northcrest Neighborhood areas including a much-needed improved access for students walking to/from nearby Fort Vancouver High School, the Vancouver Tennis Center, and King Elementary School.

This \$1.3 million project is funded in part with a \$489,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation through their Bike and Pedestrian Safety Program and a \$400,000 grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board through their Urban Sidewalk Program. The project has entered the construction phase with work scheduled to commence in November. The project will be complete in August 2023, shortly before the 2023-2024 school year gets underway.

- **E. 18th Street/Devine ADA Improvements:** The scope of this project is to upgrade the intersection of E. 18th Street and Devine Road in accordance with the design requirements

from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Specific improvements include ADA compliant curb ramps at each corner of the intersection and pedestrian signal enhancements including Audio Pedestrian Systems (APS). This represents the final element of an overall strategy to improve pedestrian travel on Devine Road between Mill Plain Blvd and E. 18th Street. Specifically, it greatly enhances access for students walking to/from nearby Ft. Vancouver High School and King Elementary School, and the Vancouver Tennis Center.

This \$500,000 project is funded entirely with local revenue coming from the City's Multimodal Safety & Accessibility Program. The project is currently in the final stages of design and will be ready to go to construction before the end of 2022. We have included this project in a federal grant application that provides for multiple pedestrian safety improvements throughout the Fourth Plain area. We're waiting on the decision of that grant application before proceeding into construction. If successful, the grant would allow us to use this local investment to leverage federal funding for several other pedestrian and safety improvements in the broader Fourth Plain Corridor and adjacent neighborhoods.

- **Northwest Neighborhood Pedestrian Improvements:** The scope of this project includes the construction of new sidewalks along portions of Lincoln Avenue, NW 53rd Street, and along the unimproved right-of-way associated with NW Harney Street between NW 49th Street and NW 51st Street. The project also includes an enhanced pedestrian crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue near NW 53rd Street.

The goal of the project is to improve pedestrian access within the Northwest Neighborhood area including improved access for students walking to/from nearby Benjamin Franklin Elementary School. This \$1.8 million project was funded in part with a \$500,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation via their Safe Routes to School Program. Construction of the project is substantially complete with only minor cleanup items remaining.

Each of these projects will play a crucial role in improving our transportation system for those that move about the community by means other than an automobile. These projects will make travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, mobility devices users and those accessing transit much easier and safer. The Multimodal Safety and Accessibility Program compliments many of the City's other transportation programs in making our streets safe and accessible for all who use the system, regardless of their choice of travel mode or ability.