

CIP Project Suggestions, by District Council

District Council Downtown

Project Title

Bell Street as a Green, Neighborhood, Pedestrian Connector

Project Location

: Bell Street from the Waterfront to Denny Park

Project Description

We are requesting a \$35K study/planning phase to define the work necessary to implement Bell Street as a green street, making it the pedestrian connector to the open space and public amenities on the waterfront and in the vicinity of Denny Park, connecting three neighborhoods. Implementation of that study/plan can be deferred for two sections: 1) The area between the Bell Street overpass and 1st Avenue, pending viaduct replacement; and 2) 5th Avenue to Denny Way, pending develop of a significant area. However, there should be clear development principles and schematic plans in place for implementation in these areas at the appropriate time. The work should commence immediately in the area between 1st Avenue and 5th Avenue, four blocks. The detail scope of the improvements for those four blocks must wait for the study/plan, but it is anticipated that these would involve reducing the current 2 parking lanes and 2 traffic lanes by at least one lane, and possibly two lanes; devoting the extra space to landscaping and pedestrian public amenities. Existing sidewalks would be repaired or replaced and new enlarged tree pits with significant landscaping would be added. These changes should reduce and calm auto traffic, improvement the pedestrian environment and provide needed open space

Project Justification

Belltown is the most densely populated neighborhood in Seattle. In addition, there are currently 15 residential projects including some 2300 housing units either under construction, permitted or in final design for Belltown. As Belltown does not have a central park or open space and is the neighborhood with the greatest need for people parks or open space, our streetscape takes on added importance. The Belltown Neighborhood Plan and a recently completed Belltown Streetscape Study found that an effective way to achieve some of the benefits of a park is Green Streets or Street Parks and specifically recommended improvements for Bell Street. All the people within a few blocks of Bell Street would benefit. Making this street an attractive pedestrian connector, would give these people better access to the Waterfront, the Bell Street Conference Center, the north Waterfront, the World Trade Center. It would also give these people better access to Denny Park, the largest public park in the area, and the new

Reviewing Department SDOT

Dept Recommendations

There may be some opportunities to fund this type of project in phases through the Neighborhood Matching Fund or the Neighborhood Street Fund/Cummulative Reserve Fund program, both of which are administered by the Department of Neighborhoods. There may also be opportunities to leverage developer funding.

District Council Downtown

and green relief to the neighborhoods. We estimate this second phase would cost about \$1M.

Whole Food Grocery Store at the corner of Westlake and Denny. It would better connect the growing residential population of the Denny Triangle with the restaurants and retail in Belltown. Bell Street now has relatively narrow, cracked, displaced sidewalks, with little landscaping beyond trees. The changes proposed would help isolate pedestrian traffic from the auto

District Council Downtown

Project Title

Belltown-Third Avenue Renaissance

Project Location

Third Avenue in Belltown

Project Description

With these funds, we propose to improve the sides of two blocks of Third Avenue between Virginia and Denny, leveraging the city funds with some contribution from the property owners (25 to 35% of the cost). Current priorities would be the east side of the 2100 and 2200 blocks of 3rd Avenue, or both sides of the 2600 block of 3rd Avenue. The renovations would be selective repaving and sidewalk repairs plus replacement of struggling honey locust trees with Allee Elms with either large landscaped tree pits (6' x 8') or near continuous landscaping, 5 to 7' wide, on the tree line. For corners on Green Streets (Blanchard or Bell Street) we would want to add pedestrian bulbs at the corners. We expect that funding of \$85,000 to \$100,000 for each side of a block would be sufficient, but SDOT is in a better position to estimate these costs. This is repair of an existing asset.

Project Justification

Belltown is the most densely populated neighborhood in Seattle. In addition, there are currently 15 residential projects including some 2300 housing units either under construction, permitted or in final design for Belltown. Three of those projects that represent 603 housing units are on Third Avenue. As Belltown does not have a central park or open space, our sidewalks take on added importance. The Belltown Neighborhood Plan and a recently completed Belltown Streetscape Study found that an effective way to achieve some of the benefits of a park is landscaped sidewalks. These studies further showed that Third Avenue was most in need of sidewalk/streetscape improvement with the sidewalks on the side of 12 blocks need renovation. We are currently planning to accomplish sidewalk/streetscape improvements on the west side of the 2100 block using a large project fund grant (and match by the property owners) and the 2200 block using 2006 CRF (and match by the property owners). The improvements will be repaving or selective repaving plus replacement of struggling honey locust trees with Allee Elms with either large landscaped tree pits (6' x 8') or near continuous landscaping on the tree line. In

Reviewing Department SDOT

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addition, because of significant new residential developments, we expect the sidewalk, trees and sidewalk landscaping will be improved on the east side of the 2000 block and the east side of the 2700 block. This leaves 8 blocks (one side) to do. With these funds we propose to renovate 2 additional blocks. All the people who live on or near Third Avenue or work on or near Third Avenue will be benefited. Directly on 3rd Avenue there are five large condo or apartment complexes, 6 low and median income housing facilities, and 4 human service providers. We believe that the wholesale improvement of the streetscape on this avenue will improve its character, by increasing civic pride and joint ownership of the sidewalks (our front

District Council Downtown

Project Title

Bike Friendly Access Downtown

Project Location

Throughout downtown

Project Description

Traveling downtown on a bike is currently dangerous because of the lack of bike lanes and broken up pavement/concrete. This CIP would support the installation of bike paths and fix potholes, grates, or other obstacles that create unsafe conditions for bikes

Project Justification

This project is needed to encourage people to ride their bikes and to provide them a safe environment to ride in. Many folks do not ride downtown simply because it is unsafe. Additional bike lanes and removal of obstacles will help bikers feel more safe traveling downtown. More bikes would remove cars off the road, which contributes to traffic. Furthermore, biking is more healthy and will improve the quality of life for people.

Reviewing Department SDOT

Dept Recommendations

SDOT is currently studying options for extending bike lanes and/or a signed bike route through downtown Seattle. This project would compete well for federal and state grants, although some additional local funding may be required.

District Council Downtown

Project Title

Equip City Hall’s Boards and Commissions Room and the meeting rooms on Municipal Towers 40th floor for Seattle Channel live TV coverage

Project Description

Contrary to the original planning for City Hall, the Boards and Commissions Room is not wired or equipped to allow the nearby Seattle Channel studios to broadcast the proceedings live or to allow the Seattle Channel to conduct low-cost, high-quality videotaping.

Similarly, when meeting rooms were established on the 40th floor of the Municipal Tower, these rooms were not connected to the Seattle Channel for live broadcast or videotaping. This project would

establish links by video wire between the Seattle Channel studios and the Boards and Commissions Room and the meeting rooms on the Municipal tower’s 40th floor. These connections would allow the

Seattle Channel to broadcast live from these rooms, such as by a portable “fly pack” or by robotic cameras such as are installed in the City Council Chambers and the Mayor’s Press Conference Room.

Project Location

The Boards and Commissions Room is on floor L2 of City Hall. The 40th floor is the location of several rooms in the Municipal tower where other City boards and commissions meet.

Project Justification

The viewing public will benefit from live coverage of City boards and commissions, and from the Seattle Channel’s ability to videotape such meetings inexpensively and at high quality. Many important meetings (including even City Council meetings) occur in the Boards and Commissions Room as well as the rooms on the 40th floor of the Municipal Tower. City boards and commissions provide early input to the executive branch and the City Council. Once these advisory bodies have acted, it is sometimes too late for citizens to offer their suggestions either to these bodies or to the Mayor and City Council. And while no one would suggest that a majority of these board and commission meetings (or portions of these meetings) should be broadcast, the current lack of video capability denies to the Seattle Channel the ability to make its own journalistic choice to cover any meeting with the high production values, low cost, and the timeliness of live TV or the well-edited use of quality videotape.

Reviewing Department DOIT

Dept Recommendations

We have completed City Hall’s Boards and Commissions Room and will video tape or broadcast live from that room as we see appropriate content scheduled. We have no plans to wire the 40th floor of the Municipal Tower as we do not see enough events there that warrant the expenditure.

District Council Downtown

Project Title

Homeless Garden of Remembrance

Project Location

TBA

Project Description

NEED: Human beings by their very nature need to give space to their grief and mourning. This fundamental need is no different for homeless people than it is for people of means. In 2005, at least 56 homeless people died outside or by violence in King County - a horrifying record. Each year, more than 200 people die without family to claim their bodies or means for their own burial. There is no place to remember them with dignity, in the attendance of their friends, and in observance of their own ethnic and religious traditions. Although WHEEL (a grassroots organizing effort of homeless and formerly homeless women) and the Church of Mary Magdalene (an ecumenical day ministry to women) hold Women in Black silent witnessing vigils whenever a homeless person dies outside in King County, the wider Seattle/King County community is largely unaware of this problem, and is largely unaware of the serious dangers homeless people face on the streets.

PROPOSAL: Women in Black and several community and church-affiliated supporters - spurred by their experience standing vigils - propose to create a public memorial for homeless people, in the form of a garden of remembrance. Examples of projects like this already exist: Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, for example, have a "Garden for Fallen Angels" at their day center space on Olive Way. The location of the garden of remembrance should be accessible to homeless people - that is, in or near the downtown Seattle Ride Free Zone, and in a public

Project Justification

Reviewing Department Parks

Dept Recommendations

Do not consider. (Counter to Parks memorial policy.)

District Council Downtown

place. Several downtown Parks would be appropriate locations. See attached list. Earth must be at least 14 inches deep for plantings. It must be large enough to be meaningful, and public enough to have dignity and give weight to the issue of homeless deaths. It also must be large enough for at least 50 people to gather at occasional memorial services, and for names to be publicly displayed. In November 2005, the Seattle City Council unanimously approved a Council Resolution in support of a public Place of Remembrance for Homeless People. In autumn 2005, the American Institute of Architects, Seattle Branch,

District Council Downtown

Project Title

The WIDE-5 Micro-Oasis Project

Project Location

See Text

Project Description

The WIDE-5 Micro-Oasis Project defines a city boundary inside of which a project of selective streetscape improvements is envisioned. Using the University Avenue sidewalk and landscaping improvements project (particularly the "Lower Ave.") as a reference, this project seeks similar improvements to Seattle's streetscapes. Along the "Lower Ave.," that district's trees were provided with ample growing room; around most trees, flowers and other visually appealing plants were installed. Central to this project is the implication that Seattle's downtown exists as a perceived experience with the Waterfront, the ID, Denny, and I-5 as its four gateways. The project calls for realizing a vision similar to the "Lower Ave.'s" throughout the WIDE-5 zone. How pleasant it would be for the city worker and resident, not to mention our many tourists, to have at each turn of the eye within this zone a beautifully maintained streetscape, resplendent with well cared for trees, each or most accented by an appealing and appropriate mix of flowers and plants adapted for the city. Where an oasis is a welcome sight in an expanse of desert, the micro-oasis envisioned within this project would become each and every tree and recalimed planting opportunity within our downtown Seattle environment.

Project Justification

Suggested in text

Reviewing Department SDOT

Dept Recommendations

Current code requires new landscaping as a component of most new development. Urban Forestry works with developers to design a landscape that is attractive within the limitations of curbside parking, other street furniture and underground utilities that might limit tree planting. Planting flowers as understory is a greater challenge because of the almost daily maintenance requirements. This is especially the case with SDOT projects. Private developers of residential, hotels and office buildings are usually receptive to planting understory if the tree pits are large enough to accommodate them. Urban Forestry does not currently have a budget for planting trees or flowers outside of capital projects. Again, for flowers, maintenance remains the biggest challenge.

District Council Downtown and Central

Project Title

First Hill Homeless Feeding

Project Location

Project Description

Want the City to take the program that is now in the Presbyterian Church and take it back to City Hall Park. It doesn't belong in a residential setting. Many of the ones who the city feed said they prefer it downtown. The city needs to follow through with the propose building that was turned down by the City Council. Also maintenance of planter boxes on Spring Street by Parks Dept. They are between 7th and 6th. Also a major emphasis on remarking all street lines and crossing. In the heart of downtown. Between 8th to 1st and all the streets in between.

Project Justification

Reviewing Department HSD

Dept Recommendations

HSD staff do not have any knowledge of this project, and based on that would not recommend it for funding

District Council Downtown District Council

Project Title

Qwest Field Park

Project Location

parking lot north of Qwest Field

Project Description

I was out for a walk on a beautiful day this week and came upon the Qwest Field parking lot. I thought, wouldn't this make a great park, with ball fields, basketball hoops around the periphery, and

"unstructured" grass parts. It is open and visible and therefore feels safe. It would be a wonderful park for Pioneer Square and SoDo. Parking could move to garages. In any event parking shouldn't trump park space, space which this city could use a lot more of. Special provisions would need to be made to accommodate people arriving for football games at Qwest, eg wide walkways, etc.

Project Justification

This needs justification?

Reviewing Department Parks

Dept Recommendations

Do not consider. (Conflicts with King County housing proposals.)