City Earns National Award for Excellence in Mobility

In late September the City of Wilsonville received the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Mobility from the National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) based in Boulder, Colorado. The award was presented to City Manager Bryan Cosgrove at the 101st annual International City/County Management Association (ICMA) conference in Seattle, WA.

The City received the award based on the exceptional results reported in the City’s 2014 Community Survey in which local residents rated their level of satisfaction with Wilsonville’s mobility as one of the top three participating jurisdictions in the United States. The City’s survey, conducted by the National Research Center, uses a scientific, representative sample approach in order to ensure the results accurately reflect the community’s perceptions as a whole. The NRC survey is conducted in hundreds of other communities throughout the United States allowing the research organization to compare results and determine which cities, like Wilsonville, rate among the highest in any category.

Mayor Tim Knapp reflects, “We are in a fortunate position compared to many communities in that we have our own public transit system, an ever-improving transportation network, easy access to the interstate system, and a plethora of sidewalks, bike lanes, walkways and hiking trails to help community members get where they want to go. As we move forward we will continue to see improvements to further enhance connectivity throughout our community.”

City Manager Bryan Cosgrove states, “This award reflects the high caliber of citizen leadership and professional quality of staff work that is consistently demonstrated in Wilsonville on a wide variety of fronts and over a sustained period of time.”

In June the City was nominated and submitted an application to determine an overall winner for the category. In the application the City identified the steps and actions taken which led to the exceptional results. The City’s application for the award is in the form of a video and is available to view at www.ci.wilsonville.or.us/MobilityAward.

The Voice of the People Awards are the only awards given to local government based on community opinion. The perspectives of the residents themselves determine nominees.

To learn about the City’s 2014 Community Survey visit www.ci.wilsonville.or.us/CommunitySurvey.

Metro Council Awards $320,000 Grant for Wilsonville’s Town Center Master Redevelopment Plan

In late September, the Metro Council approved a $320,000 grant request to fund the majority of costs for the City of Wilsonville’s Town Center master plan proposal. The City is matching the Metro grant with $100,000 to cover the long-range plan’s total anticipated cost of $420,000.

This newly formed project seeks to create a long-range plan and near-term actions for how the city’s Town Center area can better serve the interests and needs of residents, workers and visitors. The plan seeks to develop strategies for how the Town Center area can evolve into a more walkable, attractive and commercially vibrant mixed-use district capable of supporting a range of small businesses. The approximate 100-acre planning area encompasses the properties north of Wilsonville Road, within and adjacent to Town Center Loop, including Town Center shopping center, Fry’s Electronics and the Regal Cinemas theatre.

Mayor Tim Knapp said, “Approval of this grant advances both the City’s goal to provide a master development plan for the area and Metro’s goal of targeting investments in downtowns and main streets to spur economic development, and accommodate growth.”

Metro Councilor Dirksen states, “Wilsonville is one of our region’s most dynamic cities. A vibrant, walkable Town Center is going to help its successes continue to grow and be a model for the region as a whole. I’m glad Metro can invest in making Wilsonville’s vision a reality and I look forward to seeing where we go next together.”

Currently the Town Center area is comprised of low-density, low-rise, auto-centric commercial retail and office uses. While located near the heart of Wilsonville, the area could benefit from having a stronger sense of place and better pedestrian circulation and by more fully realizing the area’s potential to serve as the community’s central hub and gathering space.

Work on the long-range plan is to begin in early 2016 and to be completed in 2017 for consideration and potential adoption by City Council. Creation of the plan is likely to be overseen by a local task force made up of community members, business owners and other local leaders. Other community-involvement opportunities include public workshops, focus groups, visual preference surveys and online feedback tools.

Completion of a Town Center master plan is a 2015-17 City Council goal and is identified in the City’s Urban Renewal Strategy and Tourism Development Strategy adopted by the City Council in 2014.

For more information, contact Miranda Bateschell, Long-Range Planning Manager, at 503-570-1581; bateschell@ci.wilsonville.or.us.

Grant Awards Support Over $1 Million in Local Long-Range Planning

A recent $320,000 grant to the City by Metro regional government will fund the majority of costs for the Wilsonville Town Center master plan project. Two local, citizen-based task forces on urban renewal and tourism each recommended that the City look at redevelopment strategies for the increasing the public’s use and enjoyment of the Town Center area. Please see the adjacent article on this page for more details.

The Town Center master plan grant award is the fourth long-range planning grant the City has won in the past three years that together total over $1 million.

Other successful grant applications include $341,000 for development of the Frog Pond area concept plan, and $365,277 shared with the City of Tualatin for advancing the Bash Creek concept plan, both funded by Metro.

Additionally, an $80,000 grant from state agencies is underwriting the costs to create an innovative architectural and development guide for the proposed Coffee Creek industrial area calculated to allow faster construction while maintaining pre-approved, high-quality design standards. This new proposed Form Based Code has been used for commercial developments in other states, but never in Oregon, and never for industrial development.

The City Council is most pleased that staff members are consistently presenting compelling grant requests to Metro and the State that cumulatively have won the City over a million dollars in community-planning assistance over the past three years.

Tim Knapp, Mayor

REMEMBER TO VOTE

Nov. 3 Special Election Ballot Measure 3-468 “Vote on Forming a Coffee Creek Urban Renewal District” This is a vote-by-mail election. Mail ballot in advance or drop-off your ballot by 8 pm at the Wilsonville Public Library 2600 SW Wilsonville Road

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...and more!

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