



# PLANNING COMMISSION

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

### III. WORK SESSIONS

- A. I-5 Pedestrian Bridge (Weigel) (45 Minutes)



## PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION STAFF REPORT

<b>Meeting Date:</b> March 11, 2020		<b>Subject:</b> I-5 Pedestrian Bridge and Gateway Plaza	
		<b>Staff Members:</b> Zach Weigel, PE, Capital Projects Engineering Manager; Kimberly Rybold, AICP, Senior Planner	
		<b>Department:</b> Community Development	
<b>Action Required</b>		<b>Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <b>Comments:</b>	
<b>Staff Recommendation:</b> Review public input and provide feedback on the guiding design elements, bridge types and amenities, and plaza design elements for the I-5 Pedestrian Bridge and Gateway Plaza project in Wilsonville Town Center.			
<b>Recommended Language for Motion:</b> N/A			
<b>Project / Issue Relates To:</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities I-5 Bike-Pedestrian Bridge, Town Center	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s) Bicycle & Pedestrian Connectivity Plan, Transportation System Plan, Town Center Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

**ISSUE BEFORE COMMISSION:** The project team will provide an update on the results of initial public outreach efforts from the project open house and online survey, using this information as a basis from which to gather the Planning Commission’s feedback on translating

Town Center Plan goals into guiding principles for design, bridge design elements, and other plaza and bridge amenities.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In 2017, the City was awarded a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Regional Flexible Funds (RFFA) grant from Metro for the design of the I-5 Pedestrian Bridge. The project, first identified as a need in the 2006 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and subsequently added to the Transportation System Plan (TSP) in 2013, will provide a safe pedestrian and bike crossing of Interstate 5, connecting the Villebois neighborhood and the Wilsonville Transit Center to the Town Center and adjacent residential areas. The project also includes design of the Gateway Plaza, a community gathering space identified as a community priority as part of the Town Center Plan process, on a City-owned parcel at the east bridge landing. Per the IGA for this grant, 90% design for the project must be completed in fall 2021.

As the first implementation project of the Town Center Plan, it is essential that the I-5 Pedestrian Bridge and Gateway Plaza design reflects the community's vision and sets the tone for what the Town Center is to become. Accordingly, the project team commenced public outreach efforts at the beginning of 2020, holding stakeholder meetings with property owners and businesses adjacent to the project to provide information on the project and gather initial feedback on design preferences. On February 19, the City hosted a project kickoff open house to gather input on design elements and amenities to prioritize in the project. On the same day, a survey opened on Let's Talk, Wilsonville! seeking feedback on the same questions asked of participants at the open house. This survey will be open through March 8.

The project team will present the combined results of these activities to the Planning Commission at the work session and seek confirmation of these community priorities. In particular, the project team seeks feedback on the following:

- Do you agree with the guiding design principles identified by the community, and should anything else be emphasized?
- Do you agree with the bridge types identified by the community, and are there any others you want to include for further study?
- Do you agree with the plaza design elements and bridge pedestrian amenities prioritized by the community, and are there any others that should be emphasized?

Based on the Planning Commission's direction, as well as feedback received from the City Council at the March 16 work session, the project team will begin to develop bridge types and approaches to evaluate, along with Gateway Plaza layouts for further public consideration this summer.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS:**

The project team will use input from the Planning Commission to develop bridge types and plaza layouts for further evaluation.

### **TIMELINE:**

Project work and public engagement activities will continue throughout 2020 to further inform bridge design, plaza materials, and amenities. Environmental documentation, permitting, design

and other technical work currently underway will also inform the bridge type, size, and location. This will enable the project team to engage the community on bridge and plaza design, and gather input on the preliminary design elements at the summer block party and through an online survey using Let's Talk, Wilsonville!, after which design will advance to 90% Design with an anticipated completion in fall 2021. Additional work sessions will be facilitated with the Planning Commission over the course of this project.

**CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The adopted budget for FY19/20 includes \$4,000,000 in Transportation SDCs for CIP project #4202. The total project design work is estimated at \$2.25 million over the next two years. The remaining budget is intended to begin to accrue funds to pay for project construction in future years.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW / COMMENTS:** N/A

**LEGAL REVIEW / COMMENT:** N/A

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:**

The pedestrian and bikeway bridge was identified as a high priority project through the last update to the Wilsonville Transportation System Plan, which included an extensive community involvement process. Likewise, the RFFA grant process included a public review and comment period in which the project garnered positive feedback from the community. In addition, the Town Center Plan included a robust and inclusive public outreach process where the Bridge Project was identified as a key framework project through extensive community support.

There will be additional opportunities to participate in the design of the Bridge Project and Gateway Plaza, which has multiple activities scoped within the Public Engagement Plan for the project. In addition to last month's public kickoff event, activities will include engagement at the community-wide Block Party, online surveys, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, input opportunities through Let's Talk, Wilsonville!, and pop-up neighborhood events. The engagement plan is designed to reach as broad an audience as possible and to gather the variety of perspectives in the community. It also includes targeted outreach to specific stakeholders more impacted by activity in the Town Center.

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS or BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:**

The Bridge Project will provide a safe bike and pedestrian crossing of I-5 that is separated from vehicular traffic with direct access to essential services in the Wilsonville Town Center, the Wilsonville Transit Center, employment areas, and educational resources. The bridge will serve all populations within and around the project area and will help the Town Center become a more vibrant, pedestrian and transit-supportive mixed-use district. Public art and environmental features integrated into the Bridge Project and plaza will help to create an attractive and accessible place for visitors and residents of all ages to shop, eat, live, work, learn, and play. The bridge and plaza investment will exemplify the City's commitment to realizing the community's vision for Town Center and serve as an incentive for private investment.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Commission can provide additional recommendations for public engagement opportunities, guiding design principles, bridge types, and other design elements for further evaluation.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENT:** N/A

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Town Center Plan Goals

**GOALS** reflect the community's priorities and will guide future decisions to ensure consistent implementation of the Plan. The Measures of Success for each goal drive many of the strategies included in Chapter 5 and several measures of success have already been achieved with adoption of the Plan.

## GOAL 1



### **Environmental Stewardship.**

Integrate nature into the design and function of infrastructure and development in Town Center to protect Wilsonville's natural resources.

#### **Measures of Success:**

- Identify appropriate landscaping that provides visual interest, minimizes City maintenance requirements, and is appropriate for walkable, mixed-use areas.
- Design and implement stormwater management and treatment facilities to provide both functional and aesthetic value.
- Incorporate natural features such as rain gardens, eco-roofs, and community gardening areas into Town Center.

## GOAL 2



**Harmonious Design.** Ensure buildings and streets are pedestrian-oriented and there are a variety of quality building types and land uses.

#### **Measures of Success:**

- A cohesive design palette of aesthetic qualities, derived from community-identified features, both new and existing for the Town Center.
- Provide for a variety of building types and uses within Town Center.
- Development standards that bring buildings together, frame the street, and increase pedestrian comfort and visibility.

## GOAL 3



**Mixed-Uses.** Encourage development that provides interconnected land uses that incorporate play and recreation, with a range of retail, services, dining and entertainment

options, and increased opportunities for residential and employment uses.

#### **Measures of Success**

- Create an urban design plan that removes physical barriers and promotes walking and biking as easy and safe ways to travel between different buildings and areas of recreation, residential and commercial/retail uses.
- Identify locations where increased building heights, mixed-use buildings, and new housing opportunities are appropriate and complementary with surrounding residential neighborhoods.
- Organize and manage parking to minimize visual impacts, support surrounding land uses, and improve pedestrian safety.

**GOAL 4**



**Safe Access and Connectivity.**

Provide transportation infrastructure designed to create a safe, accessible environment for all modes of travel in Town Center,

foster multimodal access between buildings and land uses in Town Center, connect to surrounding neighborhoods, and provide local and regional accessibility.

**Measures of Success**

- Create multimodal connections in and through Town Center that provide multiple, safe routes for residents, businesses and visitors.
- Identify priority locations to connect to adjacent neighborhoods and land uses.
- Integrate the multimodal transportation system with urban design and development standards developed for Town Center.
- Incorporate wayfinding elements into Town Center’s multimodal transportation system.

**GOAL 5**



**Community Gathering Places.**

Provide vibrant, diverse and inclusive spaces that bring people together with activities and events for year-round fun, culture and socializing.

**Measures of Success**

- Identify locations, and necessary improvements, where year-round activities and events can be held in Town Center.
- Increase programming at public facilities and park spaces to provide year-round interest and gathering opportunities.
- Provide flexible public gathering spaces that provide opportunities for unprogrammed seasonal activities and pop-up events.

**GOAL 6**



**Economic Prosperity.**

Create opportunities to support and grow existing businesses and attract new businesses that provide a diverse range of local and regional retail, entertainment, and commercial activities.

**Measures of Success**

- Programs and policies that support the development of a variety of small, medium, and large businesses that provide local and regional needs and increase tourism.
- Identify ways to organize and support businesses in Town Center to retain existing businesses, attract additional business and retail diversity, and increase economic development opportunities.
- Attract development that supports the use of existing transit and non- motorized travel options.
- Identify strategies to fund public improvements through a combination of public and private sources.