



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Amy Anderson, Professional Engineer, Environmental Services
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services *M.P.S.*
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Request for Resolution: Grant Acceptance Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance Agreement WQC-2020-TacoES-00070 for the Larchmont Permeable Neighborhood Project – February 4, 2020
DATE: 1/17/2020

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement and any associated term extensions with the Washington State Department of Ecology, in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; authorizing the execution of a Department of Ecology, State Revolving Fund Loan, in the amount of \$2,797,752.00; accepting and depositing said sum into the ES Surface Water Fund 4301; and authorizing the expenditure of \$7,797,752.00, to install permeable pavement in the Larchmont neighborhood between East 84th and East 88th Streets and McKinley Avenue and East "A" Street.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is based on the need to reduce stormwater flow and improve stormwater quality in the Flett Creek Watershed through installation of permeable pavement for 27 blocks in the Larchmont neighborhood around Larchmont Elementary School between East 84th and East 88th Streets.

The Larchmont Permeable Neighborhood Project offers a unique opportunity to retrofit residential streets into green infrastructure using permeable pavement. The proposed design has capacity to infiltrate roughly 43 acres of road and sidewalk surface plus the surrounding residential area. In addition to reducing surface water runoff and its associated load of fine particulate matter, sidewalks will be built in the areas adjacent to Larchmont Elementary School to improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ (CUSTOMER RESEARCH):

The community surrounded by Larchmont Elementary School will be directly affected with improved roads, sidewalks, and landscape. This area is rated with a low equity, a moderate livability, and very low accessibility per Tacoma's Equity Index.

City representatives have met with the Larchmont/Blueberry Park Safe Streets groups, the District 5 City Council Member, and other neighborhood residents. The project has tremendous support from the community including the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Tacoma Public School District, and the Puyallup Watershed Initiative.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The overall equity index for the Larchmont Neighborhood is low. The existing streets are in poor condition and designated pedestrian pathways are limited. Right-of-way improvements in this neighborhood have been primarily limited to roadway maintenance activities in recent years, with little or no investment in capital improvements. Through a funding partnership with the Washington State Department of Ecology, this project will replace the existing roadway with new pervious asphalt, which will improve the drivability of the roads, and help improve the overall quality of the watershed. This project will also help the City work towards its tree canopy goals of 30 percent



coverage by 2030, and vastly improve the pedestrian connectivity of the neighborhood by constructing sidewalks, and planting street trees.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score: Low Opportunity*

Increase the number of infrastructure projects and improvements that support existing and new business developments.

Education: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Civic Engagement: *Equity Index Score: Very Low Opportunity*

Representation at public meetings will reflect the diversity of the Tacoma community

Livability: *Equity Index Score: Moderate Opportunity*

Increase positive public perception of safety and overall quality of life.

How does your policy, program, or service help or harm the health of the natural environment?² (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions, open space conditions, sustainability, clean air, water and soil, and noise and light pollution).

Permeable pavement installation will reduce surface water runoff and its associated contribution of fine particulate matter into waterways and improve peak storm flow, which is significant to the health of the creeks and wetlands in the area.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s)?

Right-of-way improvements in this neighborhood have been primarily limited to roadway maintenance activities in recent years, with little or no investment in capital improvements. The current roads are in poor condition with multiple cracks and potholes. The existing stormwater collection system is very limited and at times does not provide adequate drainage. This project will replace the existing road with a permeable paved surface, install curb and gutter, continuous sidewalks, and street trees. East "A" street will become one of the bicycle connector streets, which would not be possible without this project. Public engagement will be encouraged, and public meetings will allow the residents to be a part of the decision-making process. This project will help beautify the right-of-way throughout this neighborhood, improving household's frontages, and potentially increasing property value.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. City fully fund the improvements	Improvements to neighborhood are completed	Removes funding from other projects in other neighborhoods
2. Not to proceed with the project	Adds City funding to other projects	Improvements to neighborhood will not be completed



EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

Over the course of design, there are several benchmarks for internal reviews to occur at specific times to meet a scheduled 2021 construction. There will be several public meetings to make sure the desires of the neighborhood are incorporated into the design.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends accepting the resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement and any associated term extensions with the Washington State Department of Ecology, in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; authorizing the execution of a Department of Ecology State Revolving Fund Loan (SRF), in the amount of \$2,797,752.00; accepting and depositing said sum into the ES Surface Water Fund 4301; and authorizing the expenditure of \$7,797,752.00, to install permeable pavement in the Larchmont neighborhood between East 84th and East 88th Streets and McKinley Avenue and East "A" Street.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total estimated cost for the Larchmont Permeable Neighborhood Project is \$7,797,752.00. There is no City match money required. City will contribute additional funds for other utility upgrades but this is separate Department of Ecology's funding. The City will also pay back the State Resolving Fund loan over the term of the financing.

Fund Number & Name	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1. ES Surface Water Fund 4301	ENV-03031-13	Various	\$7,797,752.00
2.			
TOTAL			\$7,797,752.00

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

Funding source will be Department of Ecology Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance Grant #WQC-2020-TacoES-00070 for \$5,000,000.00 and Department of Ecology State Revolving Fund Loan for \$2,797,752.00 with a cost Object of 521900 and Cost Element of 6371302.

Are the expenditures and revenues budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

No

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

No