



## **CITY OF KIRKLAND**

**Department of Public Works**

**123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800**

**www.kirklandwa.gov**

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### **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Rod Steitzer, P.E., Capital Projects Supervisor  
Dave Snider, P.E., Capital Projects Manager  
Kathy Brown, Public Works Director

**Date:** February 4, 2016

**Subject:** NE 116<sup>th</sup> ST / 124<sup>th</sup> AVE NE NORTHBOUND DUAL LEFT TURN LANES  
PROJECT UPDATE & GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

### **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

- Receive an update on the NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street / 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Northbound Dual Left Turn Lane Improvement Project (Project) including information on a prospective Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant award;
- Approve moving the Project, as number CTR 0092 within the current 2015 - 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), from an "Unfunded" status to that of a "Funded" project status; and,
- Authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with the TIB for grant funding in the amount of \$790,000, with City match funding of \$585,000, as discussed below.

### **Background and Discussion:**

The intersection at NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street and 124<sup>th</sup> Ave NE is a major Kirkland intersection, providing access and connections between the North Rose Hill neighborhood, additional residential and commercial areas of Totem Lake to the north, the Lake Washington Technical College to the east, and I-405 on/off ramps at NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street to the west (Attachment A). As this part of Kirkland is now set to experience significant growth over the coming months and years, with the redevelopment of the new Village at Totem Lake (the former Totem Lake Mall), this timely intersection improvement will serve as a new south-central "gateway" to the Totem Lake Neighborhood.

The past and future development and growth in the Totem Lake and North Rose Hill neighborhoods, in both business and residential construction, has and will continue to impact mobility for motorized and non-motorized transportation. Over the last several

years, the subject intersection has consistently ranked as the highest crash location in the City. The average crash rate for this intersection is 1.24 accidents per million vehicles per year, which exceeds the City's 90th percentile crash rate value. During the period from 2012 to 2014, fifty-six (56) crashes occurred at, or within, the vicinity of this intersection. The most frequent types are left turn (57%) and rear-end (20%) type crashes.

The two main objectives of the Project are to improve safety and transportation efficiency for all modes of travel. The Project improvements will serve to maximize the existing capacity in order to address safety and operational issues caused by congestion, while also improving access to businesses in the vicinity. The Project benefits to the community include safety and efficiency improvements intended to provide enhanced multimodal transportation access in support of economic development.

The NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE intersection is listed under Policy TL-29.2 in the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan and improvements such as this are essential to maintaining mobility and meeting the City's level of service standards. The future land use and vision for the Totem Lake Neighborhood and Urban Center is for more intensive redevelopment that includes greater building height with mixed uses consisting of housing above retail.

### **Design Elements**

The proposed Project will design and construct improvements consisting of reconstruction and rechannelization of the intersection's south leg to allow for two (dual) north-bound left-turn lanes. In addition, the right-turn only lane would be reconfigured to a right and through lane, and a bicycle lane would be added. The bicycle lane would link to an existing north-bound bicycle lane on 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The Project includes lane re-configuration, installation of new signal poles/signal heads, lighting and ADA improvements, together with the installation of new traffic signal equipment in support of the City's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), Flashing Yellow Arrow Left Turn Signals and Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS).

The intersection's north leg receiving lane would also be realigned to accommodate the through traffic. All of the planned improvements are expected to result in measurable safety benefits since approximately 40% of crashes that occur at this intersection are attributed to traffic congestion in the north-bound direction. The flashing yellow turn-arrows, as an effective countermeasure for left turn crashes, is also expected to reduce left turn accidents. In addition, flashing yellow arrows would provide operational flexibility by facilitating the implementation of other left turn phasing by time-of-day alterations achieved through the City ITS network.

The Project's bicycle lane improvements would connect to the Cross Kirkland Corridor, as well as with the Transit Center at Evergreen Hospital; both facilities serve Kirkland and the broader region. The sidewalk improvements will be reconstructed to comply with American with Disabilities (ADA) requirements and provide a safer and a more inviting environment for pedestrians. The completed area sidewalks lead to the CKC,

the Village at Totem Lake and the Evergreen Hospital Transit Center, all less than one-mile from the intersection.

**Grant Award**

The NE 116th Street / 124th Avenue NE North-bound Dual Left Turn Lanes Improvement Project is currently an unfunded project within the 2015 – 2020 CIP, as approved by City Council on December 8, 2015. The project number is CTR 0092 and it is estimated at \$1,375,000.

In 2015, as staff sought appropriate grant funding opportunities on a wide variety of projects within the CIP, the intersection of NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE appeared to be a good match for the grant criteria under the Transportation Improvement Board’s (TIB) Urban Arterial Program (UAP). A site visit with the City’s Grant Team and the TIB engineer for the Greater Eastside Region resulted in a positive indication that the NE 116<sup>th</sup> Street and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE intersection would be a strong candidate for the UAP.

A grant application was submitted in August and in December, 2015; the City received an award letter confirming the Project was a top candidate for the UAP program with a grant award amount of \$790,000. At that amount for the grant, the City’s share is \$585,000 for this \$1,375,000 project.

**Project Funding**

Within the approved 2015 -2020 CIP is a new funded project, TR 0122 – Totem Lake Intersection Improvements, with a total budget of \$6,000,000. This project was developed as a placeholder for signalized intersection improvements at select Totem Lake area locations in support of the Totem Lake Mall redevelopment, now known as The Village at Totem Lake. The budget for the new TR 0122 project was purposely structured with \$3,000,000 of City revenue funds (Impact Fees) and \$3,000,000 in external (grant) funding. As the subject Project is a key Totem Lake Neighborhood intersection that is Impact Fee eligible, staff is recommending the use of \$585,000 of the \$3,000,000 Impact Fee source and applying the \$790,000 TIB grant funding as an off-set to the identified external funding being sought, as follows:

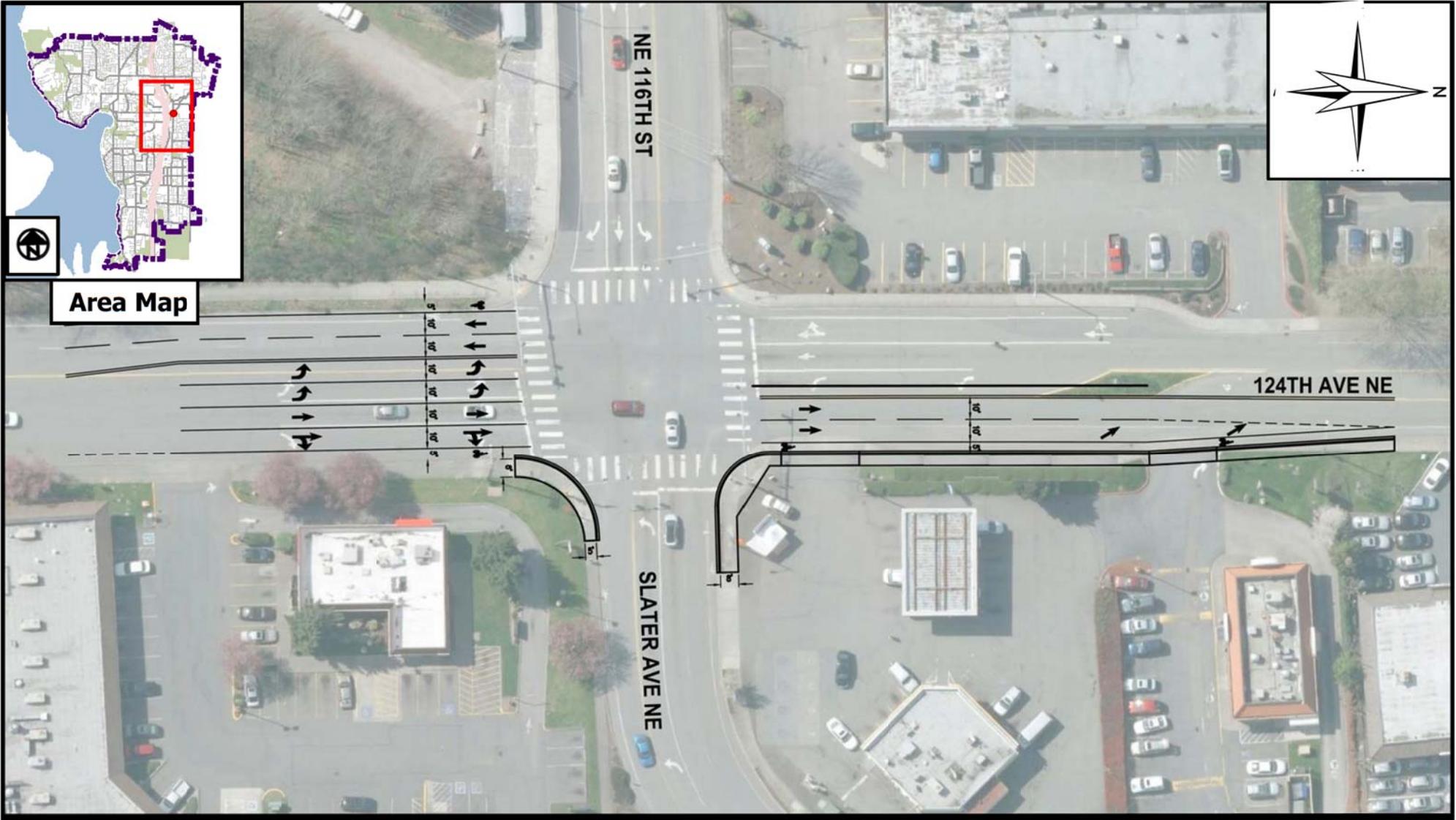
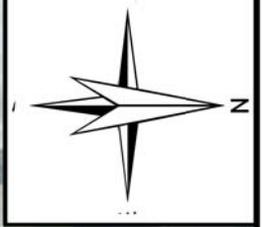
Table 1 – Recommended Project Funding

| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Impact Fees</b>  | <b>External Funds</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>      |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| CTR 0122 – Totem Lake Intersection Imps  | \$3,000,000         | \$3,000,000           | \$6,000,000       |
| <b>* CTR 0092 – NE 116<sup>th</sup> St/124 Ave NE<br/>North-bound Dual Left Turn Lanes</b> | <b>- \$ 585,000</b> | <b>-\$ 790,000</b>    | <b>-1,375,000</b> |
| BALANCE (for TR 0122)  | \$2,415,000         | ** \$2,210,000        | \$4,625,000       |

\* Subject Project for this memo    \*\* unsecured external funds

With City Council concurrence for the above funding scenario, staff will adjust the CIP Project Sheet for TR 0122 – Totem Lake Intersection Improvements to reflect the reduction in both City funding available as well as for the grant funding component.

Attachment A – Vicinity Map



Area Map



**Vicinity Map**  
NE 116th St and 124th Ave NE Northbound Dual Left Turn Lanes