



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: David Ramsay, City Manager
From: Erin J. Leonhart, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Date: December 19, 2008
Subject: FEDERAL LOBBYIST FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council consider funding a Federal lobbyist in 2009 with a combination of Council Reserve and Economic Development Professional Services funds.

BACKGROUND

Since 2006, the City has contracted with federal and state lobbyists (Jake Johnston and Mike Ryherd) to represent our interests in Washington, D.C. and Olympia. The federal lobbyist has had a particular focus on requests for federal funding where the state lobbyist's focus tends to be on legislation. In Kirkland's 2009-2010 budget, funds were approved to continue state lobbyist support at \$30,000 per year but federal lobbyist services were not funded.

The key assets that a federal lobbyist brings to the City are access to and relationships with key Congressional elected officials and staff. Having a presence in Washington, D.C. significantly enhances the City's likelihood of securing federal appropriations. Specific assistance comes in the form of:

- Advising Kirkland about the creation of supporting materials for requests;
- Contacting key congressional staff to obtain support for the City's funding requests;
- Monitoring the budget and appropriations process; and,
- Coordinating meetings in Washington, D.C. with City of Kirkland representatives and key congressional staff.

In 2008, for the FY'09 Federal budget, the City submitted federal appropriations requests for:

1. Homeland Security training for first responders in the Police and Fire Departments (\$675,000)
2. Emergency Services equipment (\$500,000)
3. Juanita Beach Park Outdoor Community Facility and Education Pavilion (\$200,000)
4. NE 120th Street Extension (\$1.5 million)

Congress has delayed the final consideration of its 2008 appropriations work until February of 2009 when the Obama Administration will be in place so we do not know if any of these requests will be included in the final budget for FY'09.

Although the City has not yet received funding through the appropriations process, the federal lobbyist has helped build the City's reputation and relationships that it needs on many levels. As an example of this effort, earlier this year Congressman Inslee appeared before the City Council to discuss shared priorities and the City has built a working relationship with Senator Murray's office on the issue of affordable housing.

There are three sources of available funding in the 2009 session: economic stimulus, federal transportation bill and traditional appropriations. The 2009 session provides Kirkland with unique opportunities for these sources:

- President-elect Obama has expressed a strong interest in **economic stimulus funding** for infrastructure projects, and it is rumored he will sign a stimulus bill in January immediately after the inauguration;
- The **federal transportation bill** is scheduled for its five-year reauthorization and House Transportation Committee Chairman Jim Overstar and Ranking Member John Mica have pledged to make critical infrastructure investments a top priority for the new Congress;
- Washington's congressional delegation is well-positioned to assist, with three members on the House Transportation Committee, Congressman Dicks on the House Appropriations Committee and Senator Murray as Chair of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee; and
- Kirkland's lack of success in securing **traditional federal appropriations** improves our position for 2010 funding.

Conversations with staff and the Jake Johnston have resulted in the following list of requests for the 2010 federal budget:

1. Homeland Security training for first responders in the Police and Fire Departments (\$675,000)
2. Emergency Services equipment (\$500,000)
3. NE 120th Street Extension (\$1.5 million)
4. 116th Ave NE/Bridle Trails Non-motorized Facilities (\$3 million)

The last two projects are good candidates for the three likely sources of funding in 2010: economic stimulus, traditional appropriations and transportation bill reauthorization. Staff has also developed the attached list of potential economic stimulus projects (Attachment A). These opportunities come at a time when the City of Kirkland's out of state travel budgets have been reduced or eliminated and the Federal Lobbyist Service Package Request for 2009 was not funded.

OPTIONS

Due to the likelihood of a stimulus package being signed in January, time is of the essence with this request to fund federal lobbying services for 2009. In addition, appropriations requests are due to Kirkland's congressional delegation in February and the delegation must submit recommendations in March. Jake Johnston has presented the following service level options for 2009:

1. **Option One (Core Federal Funding)** – This option would provide all the necessary counsel and support to the City to prepare and file its federal funding requests within all appropriate funding vehicles and monitor the progress of the funds throughout the year. This option does not include in-person lobbying on behalf of the City in the district or in Washington, D.C. Proposal cost: \$15,000 plus minimal expenses.
2. **Option Two (Core Federal Funding + District Engagement)** – This option would provide all the necessary counsel and support to the City to prepare and file its federal funding requests within all appropriate funding vehicles and monitor the progress of the funds throughout the year. This option includes a district engagement strategy to continue the City's efforts to deepen its relationships with its congressional delegation and key district staff. This option does not include in-person lobbying on behalf of the City in Washington, D.C. Proposal cost: \$24,000 plus minimal expenses.
3. **Option Three (Core Federal Funding + District Engagement + DC Lobbying)** – This option would provide all the necessary counsel and support to the City to prepare and file its federal funding requests within all appropriate funding vehicles and monitor the progress of the funds throughout the year. This option includes a district engagement strategy to continue the City's efforts to deepen its relationships with its congressional delegation and key district staff. This option also includes a minimum of two rounds of

meetings with the congressional delegation offices in Washington, D.C. and a persistent lobbying strategy with the D.C.-based and district-based staff.

Recognizing that the City does not currently have the budget to travel to D.C. for meetings, Jake Johnston would conduct meetings representing the City to explain and secure support for the City's requests. He will provide detailed recaps of each meeting to the City. Proposal cost: \$30,000 plus expenses (estimated at \$1000). Expenses can be kept to an absolute minimum by conducting D.C.-based meetings at times when Jake is already scheduled to be in D.C., reducing Kirkland's responsibility to the cost of lodging and associated minor travel expenses.

4. **Option Four (Full Support Similar to 2008)** – This option would provide the level of service in Option 3 above plus support of a City contingent to Washington, D.C. Proposal cost: \$39,000 plus expenses.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommendation is Option Three funded with \$26,000 of Council Reserves and \$5,000 of Economic Development Professional Services. This option would ensure that Kirkland has representation both within the state and in Washington D. C. to best capitalize on this year's unique opportunities. The suggestion to utilize funds from Economic Development is related to the strong push for economic stimulus opportunities. There will be a remaining \$17,000 of Professional Services in the 2009 budget for other Economic Development needs.

PSRC Timing Priority	Job Priority	ID#	Agency	Project	Stimulus request (\$1000)	Jobs		Final Design Complete/Bid ready (projections as of 12/16/08)	Total Project Cost (\$1000)	Project Type	NEPA Approval Date	Right of Way Certification / Approval Date
						Temporary	Permanent					
4	4	1	Kirkland	116 th Ave NE/Yarrow Creek Fish crossing/stream enhancements	\$565	30	--	Third quarter 2009	\$800	water quality/habitat	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009
4	4	2	Kirkland	116 th Ave NE/Bridle Trails Non-motorized Facilities	\$3,000	30	--	Third quarter 2009	\$4,000	Non-motorized/widening	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009
1	2	3	Kirkland	116 th Ave NE/Highlands Non-motorized Facilities	\$675	40	--	First quarter 2009	\$907	school walk route	na	na
4	4	4	Kirkland	116 th Ave NE rural Low Impact Development project	\$565	40	--	Third quarter 2009	\$900	sustainable pilot/pedestrian	2nd qtr 2009	3rd qtr 2009
7	6	5	Kirkland	124 th Ave NE Roadway expansion	\$3,000	40	200	Second quarter 2010	\$3,500	capacity/widening	na	3rd qtr 2009
9	5	6	Kirkland	Downtown Kirkland Transit Center/Park Lane pedestrian corridor	\$300	25	25	Second quarter 2009	\$7,000	transit/pedestrian	na	na
3	1	7	Kirkland	NE 120 th Street Extension	\$2,250	40	1200	Second quarter 2009	\$3,000	capacity/new road	na	3rd qtr 2009
6	7	8	Kirkland	NE 85 th Street Corridor Improvements Project	\$5,261	50	200	Second quarter 2010	\$6,576	safety/speed and reliability/pedestrian	na	na
5	8	9	Kirkland	Park Place Commercial Area Traffic Improvements	\$2,000	50	5000	First quarter 2010	\$4,210	new capacity	na	na
5	8	10	Kirkland	Park Place Kirkland Way/6th Street Traffic Signal	\$425	20	20	First quarter 2010	\$600	new capacity	na	na
8	10	11	Kirkland	Urban pedestrian corridor (Park Lane) Low Impact Development project	\$750	25	--	Fourth quarter 2009	\$1,226	sustainable pilot/pedestrian	na	na
2	9	13	Kirkland	Annual Street Preservation Program	\$3,000	30	--	Second quarter 2009	\$5,000	maintenance	na	na
--	13	14	Kirkland	Third Street watermain replacement	\$90	10	--	Second quarter 2009	\$120	fire flow and new capacity	na	na
--	11	15	Kirkland	North Reservoir seismic upgrades	\$1,050	20	--	Second quarter 2009	\$1,400	emergency preparedness	na	na
--	3	16	Kirkland	Juanita Beach Park Enhancements	\$375	12	--	First quarter 2009	\$500	water quality/habitat	na	na