



Staff Report

September 8, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting

CERB Grant Application Authorization

Presenter: Scott Collins, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

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BACKGROUND: The Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) provides funding to local governments for public infrastructure and planning activities that support economic development, private business growth, and job creation. CERB's Planning Program provides grant funding for studies that evaluate high-priority economic development projects, including planning related to capital facilities, economic feasibility, project engineering, land use, permitting, and site planning.

CERB planning grants can fund up to 80% of eligible project costs, with a minimum 20% local match required from the applicant. The program includes several funding tiers based on the type of planning activity and its relationship to future CERB-eligible infrastructure improvements.

In 2020, the City completed the *Downtown Camas Infrastructure Analysis* to evaluate existing infrastructure conditions within Historic Downtown Camas. The study evaluated streets, sidewalks and ADA accessibility, street trees, pedestrian and vehicular connectivity, water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, and electrical infrastructure. The analysis identified and prioritized potential infrastructure improvements and developed planning-level cost estimates to help inform the City's future capital planning.

The 2020 study was intended as a high-level planning tool and noted that additional planning and more detailed cost estimating would be needed as projects move toward implementation.

SUMMARY: Staff met with CERB representatives to discuss the proposed planning effort and determined that the project would qualify for a Tier 1 Planning Grant of up to \$50,000. The City is proposing to apply for these funds to build upon the 2020 *Downtown Camas Infrastructure Analysis*.

The City's desired planning effort would review the previous recommendations against current conditions, update project priorities and cost estimates, identify logical project phasing, evaluate potential funding sources, and develop an implementation and funding strategy for future downtown infrastructure improvements. The specific scope and level of analysis would be developed with the selected consultant based on available funding and the highest-priority planning needs.

Staff also coordinated with the City's legislative consultant regarding the CERB opportunity and potential future funding. The consultant recommended moving forward with the application, noting that having the project identified through the CERB process could provide greater flexibility for the City's legislative delegation to pursue additional funding through the State Capital Budget. If additional funding becomes available, it could be used to expand the planning effort and further advance downtown infrastructure planning toward implementation.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY: The planning effort will provide the City with an updated roadmap to prioritize, fund, and advance infrastructure improvements that support the long-term vitality of Downtown Camas.

STRATEGIC PLAN: This item aligns with the City's Strategic Plan element "Stewardship of City Assets" by planning for strategic investment in Downtown Camas infrastructure.

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Potential challenges include securing the significant funding that will be needed to implement future downtown infrastructure improvements, which will likely depend on a combination of City resources and outside funding opportunities.

BUDGET IMPACT: The City is requesting up to \$50,000 in CERB grant funding, which requires a minimum 20% local match. If awarded the full grant amount, the City's required match would be \$12,500 and is anticipated to be funded through the City's existing Streets Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends this Resolution be placed on the September 21, 2026 Council Regular Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.