



## Staff Report

October 19, 2020 Council Regular Meeting

2021 Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) Application

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**BACKGROUND:** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a funding opportunity originating from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Funds are available through a competitive grant application process for a limited pool of available funds. Eligibility is based on economic need as determined using information collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. Using data from the most recent U.S. Census, HUD determines the areas of the City in which projects receiving CDBG funding must be located. Since 1985, Camas has secured 43 separate CDBG Grants totaling approximately \$6.7 million.

**SUMMARY:** Staff evaluated four potential projects within the eligible areas in Camas. The projects were evaluated based on pavement condition, traffic volume, age of water and sanitary sewer infrastructure, proximity to public spaces, and the amount of City funded work that will be included in the project scope. The City funded work counts as matching funds and increases the odds of the project receiving grant funding.

All four potential projects will reconstruct damaged street and sidewalk, and three of the four will also replace old and undersized water line. Utilities are only eligible as matching funds for the grant. Matching funds would be supplied from Staff time and City Water Funds or, in the case of Option 4, below, potential matching funds could be from Pavement Preservation, ADA, or another General Funding source. Descriptions of work and estimated project costs are shown in the table below:

| Option | Location                 | Project Limits                                      | Work Description    | CDBG Funding | City Funding | Match Percentage | Funding Source |
|--------|--------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1      | NW 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave. | NW Couch St. to NW Ash St.                          | Road and Water Line | \$158,000    | \$164,000    | 51%              | Water Fund     |
| 2      | NW Benton St.            | NW 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave to NW 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave. | Road and Water Line | \$97,000     | \$81,000     | 46%              | Water Fund     |
| 3      | NW 19 <sup>th</sup> Ave. | NW Benton St. to Division St.                       | Road and Water Line | \$180,000    | \$155,000    | 46%              | Water Fund     |
| 4      | NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.  | NE Everett St. to NE Garfield St.                   | Road                | \$95,000     | \$42,000     | 30%              | General Fund   |

## **EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

What are the desired results and outcomes for this agenda item?

To determine whether to apply for CDBG grant funding and, if so, decide the appropriate project.

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

Review of as-built plans and field evaluations identified four potential projects that address significant infrastructure deficiencies and satisfy the grant application requirements.

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

The community is being engaged through the city website and it is recommended by staff that public comments be allowed during the Council meeting.

Who will benefit from or be burdened by this agenda item?

All City constituents would benefit by a grant funded project that would improve all modes of travel in and through the neighborhood.

What are the strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences?

Without CDBG funding, a project will not be constructed potential grant funded CDBG project will only move forward if Camas is awarded if it is fully funded. While we are not always successful with our CDBG grant proposals, our proposed projects are always competitive.

Does this agenda item have a differential impact on underserved populations, people living with disabilities, and/or communities of color? Please provide available data to illustrate this impact.

The purpose of the CDBG program is to fund improvements within economically disadvantaged areas. Using data from the most recent U.S. Census, HUD determines which areas in Camas are eligible for CDBG Funding.

Will this agenda item improve ADA accessibility for people with disabilities?

Yes, all of the identified projects include rehabilitation of the affected streets, and street improvement projects are required to be inclusive of ADA improvements.

What potential hurdles exists in implementing this proposal (include both operational and political)?

No operational or political hurdles are expected, as all potential projects rehabilitate and improve infrastructure elements in areas identified as Low/Mod Income by HUD. Acquisition of additional right-of-way or other property rights are not required for any of the potential products.

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

Camas Staff have a policy in place to share proposed CDBG project elements with affected residents, and to encourage public input by means of a scheduled Public Meeting for each project application that gets submitted for grant funding.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** Budget impact will depend on the amount of City matching funds included in the scope of the selected project. A project that does not receive grant funding will not be constructed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** City staff recommends that the City Council select a project, authorize submittal of a pre-application and a formal application to receive CDBG grant funding.