



## Staff Report – Public Hearing

October 18, 2021 Council Regular Meeting

Public Hearing for 2022 Community Block Development Grant Application

Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager

Time Estimate: 15 minutes

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**INTRODUCTION:** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is an annual 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. HUD determines the areas of the City in which projects receiving CDBG funding must be located based on the most recent U.S. Census data.

**SUMMARY:** Staff found 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 would include reconstructing damaged streets and sidewalks. Options 1 through 3 would replace old and undersized water lines. Staff does not find that there is a distinct difference in the current conditions of these water lines. Option 4 does not have any water upgrades to be made at this time. Utilities are only eligible as local matching funds for the grant. Matching funds would be supplied from Staff time, the City Water Utility Fund and minor charges to the General Fund. 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	\$212,000	\$180,000	46%	Water Fund
2	NW Benton St.	NW 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave to NW 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Road and Water Line	\$147,000	\$100,000	40%	Water Fund
3	NW 19 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	NW Benton St. to Division St.	Road and Water Line	\$219,000	\$181,000	45%	Water Fund
4	NW 21 <sup>st</sup> Ave.	NW Couch St. to NW Benton St.	Road	\$138,000	\$35,000	20%	General Fund

Mandatory pre-application materials are to be submitted by the end of October. Applications are due at the end of November.

### **EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

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

This public hearing serves as the second of two required public meetings. Staff is seeking direction from Council regarding whether to apply for CDBG grant funding and, if so, determining the appropriate project. This Council decision should take place following this public hearing.

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?

Over 400 letters have been delivered to the neighborhood informing residents of this public hearing.

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?

Thorough internal review of costs and community impact for each potential project location.

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 accessibilities for people with disabilities?

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

What potential hurdles exist 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 to Moderate Income by HUD.

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 Hearing for each project application that gets submitted for grant funding.

How does this item support a comprehensive plan goal, policy or other adopted resolution?

T1-4: Maintain the transportation system at a level that preserves user safety, facility aesthetics, and the overall integrity of the system.

T-5: Design and construct safe transportation facilities that meet applicable requirements.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that, upon receipt of public testimony, Council direct staff to submit a CDBG application for the preferred project from the four options and to confirm that matching funds are committed from the Water Fund and General Fund. Staff finds that Option 1 is the best project for the 2022 grant cycle.