



## Staff Report – Public Hearing

October 17, 2022 Council Regular Meeting

Public Hearing for 2023 Community Development Block Grant Application

Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager

Time Estimate: 10 Minutes

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**INTRODUCTION:** 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 44 separate CDBG Grants totaling approximately \$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 and condition of water and sanitary sewer infrastructure, proximity to public spaces, and the amount of City funded work that would 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 reconstruct damaged street and sidewalk, and three of the four would also replace old and undersized water line. One would replace an old and leaking sewer line. Utilities are only eligible as matching funds for the grant. Matching funds would be supplied from Staff time, City Water and Sewer Utility Funds and 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 Benton St.	NW 14 <sup>th</sup> Ave to NW 16 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Road and Sewer Line	\$280,000	\$135,000	32%	Sewer Fund
2	NW 19 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	NW Benton St. to Division St.	Road and Water Line	\$250,000	\$185,000	42%	Water Fund
3	NW Benton St.	NW 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave to NW 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Road and Water Line	\$180,000	\$100,000	35%	Water Fund
4	NW 21 <sup>st</sup> Ave.	NW Couch St. to NW Benton St.	Road and Water Line	\$170,000	\$120,000	41%	Water Fund

After careful deliberation staff determined that Option 1: NW Benton Street between NW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and NW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the recommended project to submit for CDBG funding consideration. This decision is based on the severely damaged condition of the asphalt pavement, curb and sidewalk. Additionally, staff deems that repair of the deteriorated sewer line is a higher priority than the water lines in options 2 through 4.

**EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:**

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

This agenda item serves as the second of two required public meetings. Staff is seeking direction from Council to apply for CDBG grant funding for the recommended 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 has been engaged by mail and 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?

Through 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 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 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. 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 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?

This project maintains the transportation system at a level that preserves user safety... and the overall integrity of the system, in accordance with Policy T-1.4 of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** Staff's recommended request for CDBG grant funding is \$280,000. City matching funds are estimated to be approximately \$135,000 and would be supplied predominantly from the City Sewer Utility Fund with minor General Fund expenditure. A project that does not receive grant funding will not be constructed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that Council direct staff to submit the CDBG project application for Option 1 for NW Benton Street and to confirm that matching funds are committed from the associated sewer fund.