

**Neighborhood Pathways Program  
April 19, 2012**

**For BPAC April 24, 2012**

Staff completed their review of the 6 full proposals for pathways projects. Attached is a spreadsheet with updated cost estimates. In some cases, staff recommends a change in scope to the project, due to constructability. Briefly, here is a summary of our review.

**Summary of Staff Review**

Scammell Avenue

This project will construct a pathway that connects Milroy and Division on Scammell Avenue. The proposal is to construct a 200-foot gravel path which will be flanked by wood chips. A fence will be built separating the path from the adjacent properties.

The project is not within existing City right-of-way. Two easements must be acquired to construct the project. The applicant contacted the property owners and they indicated support for the easements and the project. The City will need to work with the property owners to acquire the necessary pedestrian easements.

Woodard Avenue

This project will provide a trail connecting Woodard Avenue to West Bay Drive. The project will be built entirely within existing City right-of-way. As proposed, the trail would be gravel and consist of several switch backs. The project also proposes a swale and rain garden to manage stormwater runoff.

City review of this project determined that the utility lines buried within this corridor are shallow. The proposed switchbacks would require extensive cuts and fills. Any cuts over the utility lines would result in unacceptable cover for the pipes. Next, the City needs access to these utility lines to maintain them. Switchbacks would make the area inaccessible to crews and equipment. Finally, the proposed switchbacks would disturb a large amount of the hillside and would be difficult to stabilize.

The City proposes that a six-foot wide asphalt path with three landings be constructed at this location. This provides access to the utilities and is a code-complying design for accessibility. The City would hire a contractor to do the paving. The neighborhood could construct rain gardens at the site to help treat the stormwater runoff and enhance the length of the path with landscaping.

Puget Street

The applicant is proposing that the City construct a 10-foot wide asphalt path on unopened right-of-way on Puget Street between Jasper and Miller. The project proposal includes additional signage for bicyclists and sharrows. This path and route signs and markings would provide an alternative to Bethel Street for bicyclists.

The City supports this project and has estimated a cost to construct an asphalt path connecting Puget Street between Miller and Jasper. Neighborhood communications indicate that there may be some opposition to opening up this unused right-of-way.

The proposed use of sharrows is not consistent with the use of sharrows in other parts of the City. To date, sharrows are used when there is a bike lane in one direction but not in the other direction (Ensign Road, San Francisco Avenue) or for a short missing link between two bike lanes, such as on Legion Way. Long lengths of low-volume streets with sharrows may be appropriate, but this is a procedural issue we would like to discuss

further with BPAC and other transportation staff before implementing it on Puget. Directional signs associated with bike route signing as proposed is appropriate to direct bicyclists back to Bethel Street and to the school.

#### 16<sup>th</sup> at Fairview

This project proposes a gravel pathway connecting the neighborhood to the Olympia Woodland Trail. The area is heavily wooded, somewhat steep, and involves a crossing at Indian Creek. The applicant proposes using one of three proposed alignments for the path. The proposed alignments may be located on private property which would necessitate acquiring easements from property owners. The applicant proposes using volunteers to construct the path.

City staff met with the project applicant and walked the site for the proposed path. The applicant indicated that further evaluation and planning is necessary to adequately scope this project. The City recommends further evaluation of the site, including survey and determining a preferred alignment for the path. Once an alignment is determined, other issues such as easement acquisition and permitting can be thoroughly evaluated.

#### 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue

This project is located at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NE. The applicant proposes a gravel trail from Bethel Street to the curve at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The path would provide the neighborhood access to Priest Point Park located to the west. The neighborhood would use volunteers to construct the path.

City staff met with the project applicant to walk the site. The site visit revealed that there is a small stream running through the project site. Crossing this stream will involve a bridge and/or reconstruction of the culvert. This work will require permitting.

A sidewalk at this location is planned in the Parks and Pathways Sidewalk Program. This project is a very low priority in the program, but with appropriate reasoning, the project could be moved up in priority.

Because the City plans to install a sidewalk here in the future, the stream crossing becomes key to how to proceed. Whether it is a culvert or a bridge, or both, we want to make this improvement only once. We will need to place those improvements with the least amount of disturbance to the stream. In order to locate a bridge/culvert properly, we need to do some predesign work to determine the ultimate location of the sidewalk and that will influence where the stream is crossed and what improvements are needed.

We will need to purchase additional right-of-way for the gravel path, as well as for the sidewalk. We need the right-of-way because we would need the path to be separated from the edge of the road by 5 feet. We would rather purchase the needed right-of-way once, as opposed to once for the pathway and again for the sidewalk. Predesign work for the sidewalk will also answer the right-of-way questions.

Staff does not recommend pursuing the gravel pathway along 26<sup>th</sup> as part of the Neighborhood Pathways Program. Staff suggests that BPAC and staff discuss moving the planned sidewalk project up in priority in the Sidewalk Program.

#### Central and Miller – Mission Creek

This project is located on a parcel of land located between Central and Miller Streets. The City owns this parcel. The applicant proposes trails and a bridge across Mission Creek. The area is heavily wooded and has steep, unstable slopes leading down to the stream.

City staff met with the applicant and walked the site. This site was purchased by the City because this area is considered a critical basin. The City's Water Resources group is working to vegetate the area to improve slope stability and improve the health of the fish-bearing stream.

City staff do not support adding trails on the slopes and across the stream on this property for the health of Mission Creek. A walking trail could be constructed within or close to the street right-of-way as part of a future application process.

**Staff Recommendation**

- Pursue pathway construction on Scammel Avenue, Woodard Avenue and Puget Street. Award the estimated \$18,853 in grant funds in 2013 for the neighborhood work on these 3 projects.
- Use some program funding to explore the viability of pathways at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Central and Miller parcel for possible future construction.