

CITY OF SPOKANE
2007 FEDERAL AGENDA
110th Congress, Second Session – FY 2008

University District Infrastructure Projects
Preliminary Design & Engineering Study
Request: \$1,000,000

The creation of a University District in the heart of Spokane is an important catalyst to spur economic development for the region. The University District is a unique place where all the pieces of a technology-based economy come together – human capital, technology infrastructure, business commercialization, research and development, innovation and science. It provides important and needed education and training opportunities for citizens, creates jobs, enhances research capability and reinvigorates Spokane’s downtown core. It builds on the existing Riverpoint Campus and education base, which includes Washington State University (WSU), Eastern Washington University (EWU), Gonzaga University (GU), the Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS) and the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute (SIRTI).

Some 15,000 students and faculty are anticipated at the downtown campus, along with student and faculty housing, retail and other commercial uses. Approximately 1,000 citizens participated in master planning of the District over a six-month period in 2004. The City of Spokane proposes infrastructure projects for the District by priority as established in the master plan and as the City’s role in support of economic development generally and the build-out of the University District specifically.

In order to continue the pace of development of infrastructure in support of the University District, the City proposes to hire a consultant to develop a preliminary design and engineering study on three important University District projects identified in the master plan, a Pedestrian Bridge, Division Street Gateway Improvements, and Main Avenue Streetscape and Pedestrian Crossing Improvements.

Completing the preliminary design and engineering study will provide the City the critical information it needs to design and construct the respective projects.

The Pedestrian Bridge

\$500,000

The City requests \$500,000 in federal funding for the preliminary design and engineering of a pedestrian bridge, which will connect the East Sprague Business District to the University District. The bridge is intended to be an icon; a statement of place, and will require appropriate thought and input in its design and engineering. Completion of this

project will create a connection for the universities and will drive mixed-use residential, retail and commercial development in the Sprague Avenue and surrounding area, as well as high tech research and development within the Riverpoint campus. This project will also facilitate connections between the College of Nursing and the important medical community, as well as connections to downtown from the lower South Hill. Initial concepts have centered on an inhabited bridge that incorporate small-scale retail and a pedestrian boulevard.

Division Street Gateway Improvements

\$300,000

The City requests \$300,000 in federal funding for the preliminary design and engineering study of the proposed Division Street Gateway Improvements. This project will not only benefit the University District, but the entire image of the City. The proposal is to make significant aesthetic and functional improvements to Division Street and the railroad viaduct from the off-ramp at I-90 to the Convention Center at the Spokane River.

Main Avenue Streetscape/Pedestrian Crossing Improvements \$200,000

This project will make improvements to the pedestrian environment along Main Avenue from the Riverpoint Campus, across Division and into the downtown. The City requests \$200,000 for streetscape pedestrian issues to give special consideration to pedestrian safety while crossing Division at Main Avenue. It is likely that the consultant will look at both streets – Division Street and Main Avenue – at the same time to address all the streetscape and pedestrian issues most efficiently and similarly.

For additional information:

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