

Proposed Revised Capital Investment Strategy Prepared for the Cedar River Corridor Planning Process – Presentation to King County FCD Executive Committee 3/27/17

Purpose: Present proposed revisions of the draft Cedar River Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to King County Flood Control District (FCD) for review and approval. Projects are presented for proposed implementation by near term (6-year CIP), medium term (7 to 10 years) and long term project categories.

Background:

- Flood, erosion and channel migration risks were evaluated from Landsburg to the mouth of the river in Renton.
- Downtown Renton benefits from 100-year flood containment provided by levees and floodwalls, while over 500 homes in the rural residential valley are located in the 100-year floodplain or channel migration zones; with 170 located in both.
- The Cedar CIS focuses on 12 neighborhoods of concentrated risk to public safety, two locations with key infrastructure facing high erosion risk, and the area encompassing regionally significant development and industry in downtown Renton.
- The neighborhood improvement projects identified in this CIS would eliminate or reduce flood, erosion, and road isolation risk for up to 250 of the most at-risk homes.
- Due to the extent of flood and erosion hazards in the corridor, approximately 300 high and moderate-risk homes will not be addressed by the projects identified in this strategy.
- The residential flood mitigation project could, at proposed funding levels, eliminate or reduce residual flood risk for up to 5 additional homes each year.

In the fall, the FCD directed RFMS to get feedback from key partner agencies and stakeholders on the proposed Capital Investment Strategy. Proposed revisions reflect feedback received from November 2016 through January 2017.

Key Partner and Community Feedback:

- Integration of habitat restoration efforts and recreational improvements into flood risk reduction projects is strongly encouraged to capitalize on multi-objective opportunities and partnerships, providing a more cost effective delivery of services in the corridor.
- Support for use of strategic acquisitions, working with willing sellers, to buyout at-risk homes and to secure lands needed for future flood risk reduction projects. Multiple stakeholders recommended implementing the Strategic Acquisition and Residential Mitigation projects in the 6-year CIP.
- Importance of maintaining flood capacity through downtown Renton; estimated need to dredge every 12-15 years. Desire from City to evaluate higher level of protection.
- Cultural and economic significance of native salmon to the Tribe needs more thorough documentation.
- Large wood is favored for habitat benefits but a concern for recreational use.

- Residents are interested in operation of the Masonry Dam for flood risk reduction benefits.
- Residents want to be informed and involved in the development of projects affecting their home or neighborhood.
- Project-specific recommendations and modifications are reflected in the final proposed projects, and the changes are summarized below.

Proposed Changes to Draft Capital Investment Strategy:

The proposed revisions, based on community and stakeholder feedback and funding limitations, are highlighted (in light peach color) on the attached version dated Mar. 8, 2017:

1. All project costs were revised to include site establishment and monitoring costs.
2. Herzman Levee Setback Project – Refined project definition, extending bank protection for Cedar River Trail and adjusting necessary acquisitions.
3. Lower Cedar River Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study – Kept in the near project list , but as a result of updated cost estimates and funding limitations will require additional allocation of funds.
4. Cedar River Trail Site A Bank Stabilization – Kept in the near term project list but as a result of updated cost estimates and funding limitations will require additional allocation of funds.
5. SE Bain Road Neighborhood Improvements – Expanded project area to include affected right bank areas and added an alternative element for high risk flood buyouts.

Also attached is map showing project locations, and a proposed project implementation timeline for consideration.

Next Steps:

FCD direction on projects and sequencing will be incorporated into the Cedar River Corridor Plan. The Plan will be submitted to the District for approval by July 2017 to support mid-year budget reallocation decisions with the goal of authorizing initiation of the highest priority Near Term Actions. The approved and adopted Cedar River Corridor Plan will define and authorize flood risk reduction efforts along the Cedar River over the next 6-year CIP and provide guidance for continued flood risk reduction efforts into the future.

Critical Questions:

1. Do you approve of the proposed CIS changes and implementation schedule?
2. Would the FCD consider authorizing additional budget in the 6-year CIP to fund:
 - Lower Cedar River Flood Risk Reduction Feasibility Study;
 - Cedar Trail Site A Bank Stabilization;
 - Strategic acquisitions for future capital projects; or
 - Residential Mitigation to buyout high risk homes not benefiting from a project.
3. What additional information can we provide to support your decision making?