

From: Thomas Knuckey <Thomas.Knuckey@ci.bremerton.wa.us>
Date: October 18, 2023 at 5:51:16 PM PDT
To: Charlie Michel <michelbike99@gmail.com>
Cc: City Council <City.Council@ci.bremerton.wa.us>, Greg Wheeler <Greg.Wheeler@ci.bremerton.wa.us>

Subject: FW: Safe Streets Bremerton Comment from {First=Aven, Last=Frey}

Hi Charlie – nice to see you at Council tonight. We've had many comments regarding the 6th Street re-channelization, and so I thought it would be helpful to provide you with an update regarding the project. In short, we are very supportive of the re-channelization/road-diet, but we're unable to move that forward with the pavement preservation project that will be constructed next year. I've copied below text I've sent to others in previous responses for your information.

The project generally consists of revising 6th Street between 11th Street and Washington Avenue from 4-lanes to 3-lanes, with one lane each direction along with a center turn lane, and then using the roadway gained to construct bike lanes in each direction. The project has been identified in our non-motorized transportation plan and is one of the projects identified in the "Draft Preferred Alternative" in the Joint Compatibility Transportation Plan (JCTP) that we're currently working with the Navy to complete. Since the 6th Street re-channelization will significantly change how the street functions, we intend to request City Council approval to implement it when we bring the JCTP to Council in the coming weeks. A note that completing the JCTP will help make the City competitive for a new source of grant funding to implement the various projects outlined in the plan.

There is a common misconception regarding the level of effort required to re-channelize 6th Street, with most people believing the project would be low-cost and limited to repainting markings on the roadway. This is not true since the traffic signals and lane detection must be revised and retimed, bike signals and bike detection added, and new electrical services installed at each intersection to make the new system functional. Given that 6th Street is one of three major east-west corridors through the City conveying approximately 12,000 vehicles per day, we may also require revisions to the roadway if we find locations where the existing pavement section is insufficient for the final configuration, and may also consider access control revisions to the side streets. It's imperative that the re-channelization be properly designed and constructed to ensure a well-functioning corridor that is accepted by the community, and none of the evaluation or design has been completed yet. We currently estimate the cost to design and construct the re-channelization at \$2.5M, and the funding has not yet been secured.

You're likely aware of the pavement overlay projects the City has completed on 6th Street the past several years. These projects have been completed in phases given the limited funds that are available through that grant source, with the final phase (Naval to Warren) scheduled for construction in 2024. A further note that the grant funding that is being used for this work is for "pavement preservation" only, which generally includes the overlay and related work. Since we expected the City Council would support the re-channelization of 6th Street, last year we submitted a grant application to design and construct the re-channelization, with the hope to deliver the work with our pavement preservation project next year. Unfortunately, our application did not score well in the competition, and so we did not receive the grant and as a result the work cannot be delivered with the pavement preservation project next year.

I hope this helps with understanding the status of the 6th Street re-channelization project – to summarize, the project has been identified as a priority for the City, we attempted to secure

funding to deliver the work with the pavement preservation project next year but were unsuccessful, and we will continue to look for grant opportunities in the future to implement it. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Please feel free to give a call if you have further questions on this project.

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