



CITY OF FIRCREST

2024-2029

Transportation Improvement Program

DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PREFACE

Chapters 35.77.010 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) provide that each city shall annually update its Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Program and, after a public hearing thereon, file a copy of the adopted Program with the Secretary of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) by July 1 of each year. The Program is necessary to allow cities and counties to obtain State and Federal funding. For a project to obtain funding from the State, it must appear in the agency's current Program. Because the state also disperses federal highway funds, this requirement applies to federally funded projects as well.

RCW 35.77.010 also requires each city to specifically set forth those projects and programs of regional significance for inclusion in the transportation improvement plan for that region. There are no projects included in this Program that are considered regionally significant.

The Program is based upon anticipated revenues versus desirable projects. There are always more projects than available revenues. Therefore, a primary objective of the Program is to integrate the two to produce a comprehensive, realistic program for the orderly development and maintenance of our street system.

Several important points must be considered during the review of the proposed Program. The early years of the Program are fairly definite; that is, it can be assumed that those projects will be constructed as scheduled. Projects in the later years are more flexible and may be accelerated, delayed, or canceled as funding and conditions change.

It is also important to note that the adoption of the Program does not irreversibly commit the City of Fircrest to construct the projects. A project may be canceled at any time during study or design. The usual reasons for canceling a project are that it is environmentally unacceptable or contrary to the best interests of the community. The Program may be revised at any time by a majority vote of the City Council, but only after a public hearing.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The City of Fircrest assures that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap, sex, age, or income status as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent authorities, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity.

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND LEVERAGING LOCAL DOLLARS

The need to leverage local dollars through grant applications is very important to the City, especially considering the decrease in funding available for transportation-related capital improvements. The intent of this program is not only to list and program projects for funding but to establish City Council approval to submit grant applications on those projects contained in the Program.

ABOUT THE CITY OF FIRCREST

The City of Fircrest is a non-charter code city, operating under a Council-Manager form of government, with an annual General Fund budget of approximately \$12 million and a total budget of over \$34 million. Fircrest is a full-service city, providing a wide range of services, including police and fire protection, animal control, emergency medical aid, building safety regulation and inspection, street lighting, land use planning, and zoning, housing and community development, full range of recreational and cultural programs, traffic safety maintenance and improvement, and maintenance and improvement of streets, water, sewer, and storm.

Fircrest is a vibrant community that offers the perks of small suburb town life with major urban cities nearby. Incorporated as a town in 1925 and as a city in 1990, Fircrest is centrally located just 32 miles south of the City of Seattle and 31 miles north of the state capital. Covering 1.58 square miles, Fircrest started as the first master-planned community in the state of Washington. With over 30 chain saw sculptures, six beautiful parks, an urban forest of Fir trees, and friendly, active neighborhoods, Fircrest has earned its title as “The Jewel of Pierce County” and is known as a residential oasis nestled between the cities of Tacoma and University Place. The City is home to the Fircrest Golf Club, a 165-acre, an 18-hole golf course that has stood the test of time for 100 years and fits perfectly among the premier private golf clubs in the Puget Sound region.

Home to 6,979 residents, Fircrest has a strong local history and residents who are active and passionate in the community. The City operates and maintains 27.1 acres of land providing a range of active and passive recreational opportunities and community events. The City continues to work hard to keep its reputation as a quiet, residential community with attractive, livable neighborhoods and fine recreational facilities and setting the standard for community-oriented policing. Fircrest is planning for additional growth in the future that will continue to shape the character of the community. As growth occurs, there are characteristics that residents would like to retain, such as Fircrest’s green character; a safe, friendly, and sustainable community; and some physical remnants of the past as reminders of its early history.



FUNDING SOURCES

Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Funds

By law, each city receives a proportionate share of the total state motor vehicle fuel tax. Money received is a monthly allocation based on population. In the City's 2023 budget, it was anticipated that revenue received from the state motor vehicle fuel tax for the Street Fund will be \$139,540. We have found this amount to fluctuate each year dependent upon the fuel tax rate. In reviewing past monies received the city can confidently anticipate \$125,000 being received in 2024.

Transportation Improvement Board

The Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) funds high-priority transportation projects in communities throughout the state to enhance the movement of people, goods, and services. TIB is an independent state agency, created by the Legislature, which distributes and manages street construction and maintenance grants to 320 cities and urban counties throughout Washington State. Funding for TIB's grant programs comes from revenue generated by three cents of the statewide gas tax.

The TIB has several statewide competitive programs which use criteria developed by the TIB for the prioritization of projects. The three TIB programs in which the City of Fircrest can compete are as follows:

- Urban Corridor Program (UCP)
This program is for transportation projects with a primary emphasis on public/private cooperation and economic development.
- Urban Arterial Program (UAP)
This program is for arterial street construction with a primary emphasis on safety and mobility. This program is being utilized to apply for funding to Grind and Overlay southbound So Orchard St from Regents to the City line.
- Active Transportation Program (ATP)
This program is for the improvement of pedestrian safety, and to address pedestrian system continuity and connectivity. The City has applied for grants from both the SRTS Program and PBP for funding of sidewalk installations on westbound 44th St W from Rainier Dr to 67th Ave W and southbound Alameda Ave from Emerson to Fircrest Greens across from Cypress Point Ave.

City Funding Sources

Recent funds from the sale of the City's power utility have been used to fund capital projects in the City's Street Fund. There are not sufficient funds in this source to fully fund the projects included in the Six-Year Program, however, the City will consistently apply for grant funding in order to use as little of this fund as possible to maintain a healthy reserve to get through tough economic times.

Real Estate Excise Taxes

The City can also use the Real Estate Excise Tax it receives for funding, in whole or in part, any capital project associated with the work identified in this plan.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Safe Routes to School / Pedestrian Bicyclist Program

Traffic Safety Near Schools Program – This program is for the improvement of safety for children traveling to and from school.

Surface Water Management Program

The City's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) pays for all drainage facilities constructed in conjunction with street improvements. The revenue from SWMP is directly related to the number of capital improvement projects constructed. Because there will be little impact to storm drainage facilities resulting from the projects proposed in the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program, only a minor amount of funding is expected from this source.

CONSISTENCY WITH LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires local governments to develop and adopt comprehensive plans covering land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, and transportation. These comprehensive plans must balance the demands of growth with the provision of public facilities and services and transportation facilities and services. The City of Fircrest was required to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan that is in conformance with the requirements of the GMA.

The City of Fircrest has, as part of its Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Goals and Policies. The projects in the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program are intended to conform to the goals and policies within the City's Comprehensive Plan.

TABLE 1: 2024-2029 TRANSPORTATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

City of Fircrest Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (2024 to 2029)

Transportation Facility Improvements		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	TOTAL
Capital Appropriations								
1	Major Pavement Patching: Citywide	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000.00
Grind and Overlays								
2	Regents Blvd (Arondale Dr to 67th Ave)	\$ 82,000	\$ 760,000					\$ 842,000.00
3	1/2 Street Orchard St (Regents Blvd to end of Right-of Way)	\$ 678,470						\$ 678,470.00
4	1/2 Street Orchard St (19th Street to Regents Blvd)				\$ 1,100,000			\$ 1,100,000.00
Roadway Improvements								
5	Buena Vista Ave: 1300 block						\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000.00
6	Berkeley Ave: 1300 block (curb/gutter and overlay)					\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000.00
Pedestrian, Non-Motorized / Active Transportation Program								
7	Alameda Ave (Emerson St to Cypress Point) (curb/gutter, sidewalk - west side)		\$ 255,000					\$ 255,000.00
8	44th St (67th Ave to 60th Ave) (curb/gutter, sidewalk - north side)			\$ 1,129,000				\$ 1,129,000.00
9	Alameda Ave (Emerson St to Rosewood Lane) (curb/gutter, sidewalk - east side)						\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000.00
10	Emerson St (Woodside Dr to 67th St) (sidewalks, retaining walls)	\$ 55,000	\$ 451,000					\$ 506,000.00
Total Capital Appropriations								
		\$ 915,470	\$ 1,566,000	\$ 1,229,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 675,000	\$ 5,760,470.00

FIGURE 1: 2024-2029 PROJECTS MAP

As listed in Table 1, Map 1 illustrates the transportation facility improvements for the 2024-2029 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program planned for the City of Fircrest. Below is a brief description of the work for these projects.

Grind and Overlay

A grind and overlay project consists of grinding the existing pavement down a few inches and overlaying the roadway with a new wearing surface. This is a way to preserve the existing roadway and provide a new wearing surface and seal the roadbed.

Roadway Improvements

This is a reconstruction of the existing roadway. The roadbed will be removed and replaced with new material and a new pavement section. This work also includes replacing or adding curb and gutters and sidewalks along both sides of the roadway or where they do not exist.

Pedestrian, Non-Motorized

This improvement is typically the construction of a new curb and gutter and sidewalk improvement. This will add new sidewalks where there presently is no sidewalk and complete gaps in sidewalks. This also potentially provides for bike lanes along designated routes.

