Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.

Langley Second Street Streetscape Project
Langley, WA

Description and purpose

Being one of the three main Downtown streets in Langley, Second Street obtains a high pedestrian volume and many retail stores. However, the convenience and safety for walking was impeded because the infrastructure was failing and the street was designed mainly for vehicles. In order to balance the needs of pedestrians, and create a more welcoming environment, the City of Langley decided to reconstruct the street through expanding and improving pedestrian space, landscaping, public art, lighting, and new utility infrastructure. The project design includes reducing parking, creating a central plaza place, installing a new stormwater system, and placing new pedestrian wayfinding pathway markers. The new street design improves pedestrians’ safety and
comfort; provide placemaking opportunities such as street cafes, public events, and more as the public space continue to expand.

Costs and funding
Completion of the entire Second Street streetscape project cost $2.7 million. Within this, $250,000 was spent on designing the streetscape; $250,000 for construction management and $2.2 million for construction. The construction funds consisted of $642,000 in federal transportation funds and $750,000 in state Transportation Improvement Board Funds. $380,000 was spent on stormwater and water infrastructure improvements using local utility funding and $430k in local general fund money supported in part through a councilmanic bond. Unexpected costs were associated with implementation of the program; however, there were sufficient money to cover those costs. Funding for the project came from a mix of Federal and State level funds in addition to city and local bonds.

Implementation time-frame
Designing and planning for the Second Street streetscape project started in May, 2012. Construction of the project started in January 24th 2014, and took about six month to finish. The project was completed during the second week of June, 2014.

Community involvement
The community played a huge role in coming up with the concepts and designs of this project. People were aware and in control of the project: All of the landscaping for the project was designed and implemented by the Langley Main Street Association through volunteer efforts at a significant cost savings to the city. Many voices were heard through door-to-door visits with business and property owners along the project corridor, participatory public meetings, and open windows for people to comment and share ideas. At the end, the city incorporated all different ideas and interests into one plan, which then was implemented as the final blueprint of the Second Street Construction. “People do not like surprises”, Director of Community Planning at City of Langley Jeff Arango said. Communication was the key to success for this project, and the exchange of information between the public and the planning and design professionals is essential for successful implementation.

Benefits and results
In early June, 2014, Second Street reopened with a new look presented to the people of Langley. Since its reopening, Second Street has been rated highly by the community and has been visited by the people on daily basis. The partnership between the city and Main Street resulted in a greater level of buy-in for the project and ownership of the landscape design and future maintenance. Through this program, Langley’s Second Street is now a safer and more welcoming place for people to come by walking, biking, and public transportation; and it is now one of the central places for public gathering and social interaction. The Langley community just celebrated its ribbon cutting in July. More events are on their way to the Second Street plaza.
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Resources
Second Street Construction – Scope of Work
DesignLangley Blog Updates

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