



Walkable Washington

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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.

Downtown Streetscape Project Longview, WA

Description and purpose

The Downtown Streetscape Improvement Project is a comprehensive plan to improve the appearance and accessibility of Commerce Avenue in downtown Longview, WA in order to strengthen the local economy. The plan includes several augmentations such as new street lighting and sidewalks, public art installations, and landscaping. These improvements will make the downtown more accessible and enjoyable for pedestrians.

In addition to improving commerce downtown, the city was also driven by a desire to increase connectivity of the main entertainment centers, attract more people to the area, and improve the living conditions for students and international students of the nearby Lower Columbia Community College by livening up the neighborhood surrounding the campus.

Costs and funding

The funding for this project is mixed. The City of Longview was awarded a grant of \$150,000 by the Cowlitz County Rural Economic Development Fund. There is also state funding from a \$500,000 grant from the State Legislature and the use of city funds.



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Implementation time-frame

Construction will begin in February 2014. The city hopes to be finished by September for the start of the school year at Lower Columbia Community College.

Community involvement

The city held a 2-day public design workshop to display the plans for the project to the community. The public was able to make comments on the project. As a result of public input, the engineers of the project changed some of their layouts. Since this workshop, there have not been significant complaints about the project from Longview residents.

Project Contacts

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Resources

Downtown Streetscape Improvement Project
<http://www.mylongview.com/index.aspx?page=506>

Downtown Streetscape Plan Project Summary
<http://www.mylongview.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=483>



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