

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Brent A. Butler, Chief Strategy Officer

DATE: October 9, 2023

RE: Briefing: Connecting Housing to Infrastructure

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

On October 2, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners considered supporting six development projects through the Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP). The Washington State Department of Commerce has approximately \$58 million available in the 2023-25 biennial budget, which is in effect from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. Contingent upon Washington State's future budget, the 2026-2028 biennial budget represents the next CHIP funding opportunity. As such, Jefferson County should consider applying for one or more grants during this biennium recognizing that there's a possibility that funding will not be available in 2025. With the exception of San Juan Island County, the gap between what the median Jefferson County household earns and the price of housing has eclipsed that of every other Washington county based on the second quarter 2023 data released by the UW Center for Real Estate.

Projects included in the October 2, 2023 discussion before the Board of County Commissioners were (1) the Mason Street Project, (2) the Old Alcohol Plant, (3) South Seven Phase 2, (4) Caswell-Brown Village, (5) Peter's Place, and (6) Chimacum Road Projects. During this meeting, the Mason Street project proponent, Habitat for Humanity, indicated that their project was not yet ripe. Additionally, Commissioner Eisenhower identified a strong preference for advancing an application that meets the county's workforce needs. At the same time, Commissioner Brotherton identified how this project would also assist a future expansion of the Urban Growth Area to the west of Port Townsend, should it move forward as proposed.

ANALYSIS:

Based on the input received, the Caswell-Brown Village (CBV) project seems to meet the specific needs outlined by Commissioners Eisenhower and Brotherton, as it also supports the development of approximately 150 Evans Vista workforce units in addition to laying the groundwork for a future expansion of the city's urban growth area. A second project that seems viable is the collection of Chimacum Road projects including Peter's Place, South Seven phase two, BNR Mobile Home Park, Garden Court Apartments, Port Hadlock Motel, and the United Methodist Church parsonage. As such, staff recommends applying for grant funding for both projects.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact originates in the amount of time it takes to draft, and submit responsive applications.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the Chief Strategy Officer apply for two grants, one in partnership with CBV, and the other in partnership with Public Works to support the Port Hadlock Sewer.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

10/3/23
Date