

# Transportation Alternatives Program 2017 Application

## Instructions

Complete application in the space provided. Applicants are limited to application form and 5 pages of attachments. Submit completed application and attachments electronically to [dale.robins@rtc.wa.gov](mailto:dale.robins@rtc.wa.gov). You will receive an e-mail confirmation within one business day of submittal. If you do not receive confirmation or have questions about the application contact Dale Robins at 360-397-6067 x5212.

## General Information

Project Title: NE 68th Street Sidewalk

Project Location and Limits: Highway 99 to the City of Vancouver Limits

Project Length (miles): Ultimate is 1.05 miles, to be completed in phases.

Agency: Clark County

Contact Person: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Certified Acceptance Agency: Clark County

## Project Screening Criteria

*Check all that apply.*

- Project is consistent with the RTP
- Project contains at least one eligible Transportation Alternatives Category
- Project is directly related to the surface transportation system (except trails)
- Project does not supplement the construction of an existing project
- Project is open to public access

## Cost Summary

Project Phase	Start Date	TAP Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
Design		\$150,000	\$100,000	\$250,000
Right of Way		\$0	\$300,000	\$300,000
Construction		\$650,000	\$929,000	\$1,579,000
Totals	n/a	\$800,000	\$1,329,000	\$2,129,000
<b>Overall Match Ratio:</b>				62.42%

## Project Type

Check all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bike/Pedestrian facilities              | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation management practices   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe routes for non-drivers             | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological activities         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned railroad corridors for trails            | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental mitigation activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas             | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Trails Program       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control of outdoor advertising                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Routes to School Program     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic preservation of transportation facilities |  |

## Project Information

### 1. Project Description:

Existing Conditions: Northeast 68th Street has little to no sidewalks throughout the corridor. Northeast 68th Street is a two-lane roadway between Highway 99 on the west and NE St. Johns Road on the east. Northeast 68th Street serves a densely populated residential neighborhood with an average daily traffic (ADT) of 2,357 vehicles. The roadway is posted at 35 MPH, but vehicles travel at an 85th percentile speed of 41 MPH. The road has two 11-foot lanes with no or very narrow shoulders, limited segments of sidewalk, slopes greater than 12 percent and open ditches. In some locations the roadway is 10-15 feet above or below the abutting parcels. The lack of a sidewalk forces pedestrians into the travel lanes creating conflict with vehicles which must swerve into oncoming lanes to avoid a collision. There have been 17 reported collisions along this section of the corridor in the past 10 years. Fixed object impacts account for 65 percent of the collisions.

Pedestrians of all types walk to the Highway 99 town center and transit routes on both Highway 99 and St. Johns Road. Hazel Dell Park and the historic NE 78th Street Heritage Farm abut NE 68th Street and are also popular pedestrian destinations.

Project Scope: This project will design approximately 2,100 feet of sidewalk along one side of NE 68th Street, between Highway 99 and the Vancouver city limit-approximately 0.25 miles west of St. Johns Road. Sidewalk construction will likely begin on the south side of NE 68th Street, west of NE 17th Avenue, and continue on the north side of the roadway from NE 17th Avenue to the eastern termini of the project. Final design will be determined with additional engineering. Upon completion of design, one phase of the sidewalk will be constructed.

The sidewalk will be a minimum of five feet wide, and may be a combination of pervious or impervious concrete and/or asphalt depending on stormwater and design constraints. The design phase will determine location of necessary retaining walls, stormwater facilities, and confirm the limits of each phase of construction.

After both phases of construction, there will be a continuous pedestrian route between Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road, including a City of Vancouver development currently under construction.

Pedestrian features may be installed, such as Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB), lighting, and/or a pedestrian refuge island at or near NE 17th Avenue, depending upon where the pedestrians will cross the street. An engineering safety analysis will determine if these and/or other pedestrian features are needed.

Project Benefits: Pedestrian safety and vehicle mobility are greatly enhanced with the NE 68th Street sidewalk project. Pedestrians will no longer have to walk in the roadway competing with vehicle traffic. Vehicles swerving into oncoming traffic or stopping in their lane when encountering pedestrians within the roadway will decrease. These factors will improve safety and travel times for all modes of transportation. The reduction in vehicle/pedestrian conflicts improves safety for all modes, reducing future conflict and collisions.

Pedestrians will have better access to transit and walking travel options. There is direct access to transit at the NE 68th Street/Highway 99 and St. Johns Road intersections. Transit offers access to a wide variety of employment opportunities, businesses, services, recreational choices, and medical providers.

This sidewalk will support and encourage pedestrians to walk for exercise. The sidewalk provides access to Hazel Dell Community Park and the abutting NE 78th Street Heritage Farm. Hazel Dell Park offers covered shelters with electricity and water, BBQ grills, picnic tables, play equipment and restrooms. The 79-acre Heritage Farm provides accessible community gardens, educational and recreational opportunities. Walking trails within the 20-acre park site are also proposed.

## Project Information

2. Describe how the project will improve the public travel experience, and travel options, including the benefit to the community:

Improve the public travel experience: The construction of a sidewalk along NE 68th Street will enhance travel not only for pedestrians, but for all travel modes. This project will allow pedestrians another alternative to walking within the travel lanes. They will no longer contend with fast moving vehicular traffic. Future vehicle/pedestrian, pedestrian/bicycle and vehicle/vehicle conflicts are reduced significantly with the the sidewalk. These factors improve pedestrian and motorist safety and mobility.

Additional travel options: A dedicated pedestrian route will encourage and enhance pedestrian activity. Walking to transit at both the NE 68th Street/Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road intersections will become practical and safe supporting multi-modal travel. Pedestrians will consider walking as a viable travel option, no longer having to compete with vehicle traffic.

Community benefits: Design and construction of this project will address a longstanding community need. Neighborhood Associations and several citizen groups have actively sought this project for several years. NE 68th Street is also the highest-ranking current project on the County's Sidewalk Program.

The 68th Street sidewalk will link pedestrians to employment opportunities, business centers, services, recreational choices and medical providers along Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road. Transit will also improve access throughout the greater Clark County, Vancouver and Portland area. The community benefits will continue to increase as the densities and number of multi-family structures grow along this corridor.

Pedestrian activity from the large number of neighborhoods and residences surrounding the project area will increase. Greater opportunities for pedestrians to walk for exercise will be created as this sidewalk will help connect the walking community. Hazel Dell Park and Heritage Farm will become directly accessible. A pedestrian route to transit at the NE 68th Street/Highway 99 and St. Johns Road intersections and transit routes will be established.

3. Describe how the project provides a connection between modes, or improves transportation choices, or connects to land use services such as job locations, a civic center, library, grocery market, playground, retail center, medical office, school, and other. (Include modes and list of specific land uses connect within 1/2 mile of project):

Provides connectivity and improves transportation choices:

Public transit will become a more appealing transportation mode in this area. Construction of the sidewalk will provide a dedicated pedestrian route to C-Tran routes on Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road. There are several new housing developments along the project that have pedestrian access to NE 68th Street, but no sidewalk access to Highway 99, Hazel Dell Park, 78th Street Heritage Farm or NE St. Johns Road. There is also a proposed new hotel near the northeast corner of 68th Street and Highway 99.

Walking will become a stronger transportation choice. Pedestrians that now walk on 68th Street will be encouraged to walk more often. Individuals that were too concerned with safety to walk within the roadway will be empowered to use the sidewalk. Walking will be considered a safer and alternative transportation mode.

Connections to land uses within a half-mile of project:

The project corridor consists of multiple densities of residential housing, including neighborhoods that feed into NE 68th Street. Park and recreation land (Hazel Dell Park and 78th Street Heritage Farm) adjoin the project. At the western termini of Highway 99, employment, businesses, services, recreational choices, lodging, medical providers, churches and the Ellen Davis Trail are scattered through the half-mile radius of the project limits.

These land uses will become options with the addition of a sidewalk. The NE 68th Street/Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road intersections are comprised primarily of commercial land uses. This provides a variety of employment opportunities for all skill levels. Along both corridors there are strip malls, restaurants, lodging, banks, automobile sales and other various services. The specific associated land uses include: General Commercial (GC), Community Commercial (CC), Highway 99 Overlay District transitional areas and recreation.

## Project Information

4. Describe how the project relates to an adopted plan such as the GMA plan, modal plan, neighborhood plan or other planning process. (Include name of Plan and attach a copy of page from plan that including project by name):

The NE 68th Street sidewalk is the highest-scoring (#1) current project on the county's Sidewalk Infill Priority List used for evaluating projects. Northeast 68th Street is also listed as a "medium" priority in the Clark County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Highway 99 Sub-Area Plan also strongly encourages additional sidewalk extending from the namesake street.

Specific adopted plans include:

2016-2035 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan  
Clark County 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Document  
Clark County Regional Trail Plan  
Heritage Trail Plan  
Highway 99 Sub-Area Plan

5. Describe to what extent the project will improve mobility for disadvantage populations, including elderly, disabled minority, and low income populations:

US Census data reported by Clark County Public Health states that 12.5 to 17.5 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level within the project area. This is the second highest quintile measured.

There are small segments of intermittent sidewalk on NE 68th Street that end hundreds of feet short of Highway 99 and St. Johns Road intersections, severely restricting mobility. Safer access to transit and other walk routes will be created. Mobility for elderly, disabled, minority and low income populations will be enhanced as both transit and walking options become viable.

By providing access to an ADA compliant, dedicated pedestrian route, direct access to transit near the NE 68th Street/Highway 99 and NE St. John Road intersections will be created. Transit service is provided not only along Highway 99 and St. Johns Road, but to the larger C-Tran network. The C-Tran network provides access to employment, community centers, recreation, shopping, medical facilities, and schools within Clark County, Vancouver and Portland. This connectivity greatly improves both mobility and quality of life for low income, elderly and disabled populations.

6. List affordable house complex and number of housing units that are within 1/2 mile of project:

The US Census data reported by Clark County Public Health states that 12.5 to 17.5 percent of residents live below the federal poverty level within the project area. This is the second highest quintile measured. Much of the housing in this area is single family, with a few apartment complexes within a half-mile of the project area and two within a quarter-mile.

Rolling Creek Apartments has 111 units and is identified as having affordable rent. Hampton Hills Apartments also has affordable rent and 110 units according to Vancouver Housing Authority information. There are several mobile home and RV parks within the half-mile radius of the project.

The large number of residents living below the federal poverty level suggests that there are other pockets of affordable housing in the area. These low-income populations would benefit from this sidewalk project. Access to transit, Hazel Dell Park, Heritage Farm, employment, community centers, recreation, shopping, medical facilities and schools within Clark County, Vancouver and Portland would become safer and easier for foot traffic.

## Project Information

7. Identify the safety issues addressed by project (collision data, lack of adequate safe crossing or access, lack of separated facility, high speed or volume, other):

Within the project area, NE 68th Street does not have a continuous pedestrian route. This lack of a separate facility forces pedestrians into the vehicle travel lanes, competing with vehicles at multiple points.

High speed is another major concern. NE 68th Street is posted at 35 MPH, but the 85th percentile speed is 41 MPH. There have been 17 reported collisions along this section of the corridor in the last 10 years, with 65 percent being impacts with fixed objects.

On recent site visits, pedestrians were observed walking down the center of the travel lanes. This causes drivers to either swerve into oncoming traffic or stop in their lane to avoid pedestrians. The probability of pedestrian, head-on and rear-end collisions, is increased with pedestrians in the roadway.

8. Describe how the project addresses the safety issues identified:

Constructing a sidewalk will remove foot traffic from the vehicle travel lanes. The potential for future vehicle/pedestrian, pedestrian/bicycle and vehicle/vehicle conflicts and collisions will be reduced. A safety buffer from high speed vehicles and a pedestrian specific environment will be created.

Removing pedestrians from the travel lane will lessen the number of vehicles swerving into oncoming traffic or stopping in their lane.

While none are documented, the project will also lessen the potential for vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/vehicle head-on collisions.

9. Readiness:

- Design at 70% or higher
- Right of way acquisition complete or not needed
- Environmental permits approved

Please explain:

Right of way acquisition: Every effort is being made to design the project within the existing right-of-way. However, several small strips of right-of-way adjacent to the roadway may be required. Detail on these acquisitions will be finalized as design progresses.

Permitting: The environmental permitting process will begin with the approval of the 50 percent construction plan set in 2018, if funds are awarded.

Construction: If funding is awarded, construction is planned for 2020/2021 following completion of design and right-of-way phases.

## Project Information

10. Describe how the local community and other agencies have been involved in the planning process for the project.

List any opposition to the project and how it was overcome:

Pedestrian sidewalks have been requested within the project area over the past several years by the public and local groups.

The local community is in strong support of construction of a dedicated pedestrian route along NE 68th Street. Letter-writing campaigns by community members and the neighborhood association were conducted in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017. There is a long history of public testimony in favor of this project at County Council meetings.

During on-site reviews in March of 2017, the consultant team was approached by several community members inquiring on the status of the sidewalk project.

11. Describe how the project improves public health and increase physical activity:

The project decreases the prospect of conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, and the attendant probability of severe or disabling injury conflicts. The reduction in pedestrian conflicts improves public health.

Public health is further enhanced by increasing the viability of walking to nearby transit. A sidewalk project provides pedestrians direct access to transit along Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road. The availability of transit connects this neighborhood to medical services and providers beyond typical walking distances, improving public health.

Having sidewalk along 68th Street will encourage walking for both exercise and access to transit. Sidewalk facilitates access to the extensive network of sidewalks within neighborhoods abutting NE 68th Street, as well as Hazel Dell Park and Heritage Farm. This connectivity increases the distances pedestrians can safely walk, and correspondingly improves public health.

12. Describe how the project includes design elements that contribute to quality of life:

The sidewalk, driveways and ramps will be designed to meet ADA requirements. Having an ADA complaint sidewalk allows all populations and age groups equal opportunity for access to employment, recreation, civic, community, medical, education and religious centers. Each of these opportunities individually contributes to the improvement of quality of life for all population groups along the NE 68th Street. The addition of an ADA complaint sidewalk will help enhance walkability.

## Project Information

13. List all funding partners contributing to the project:

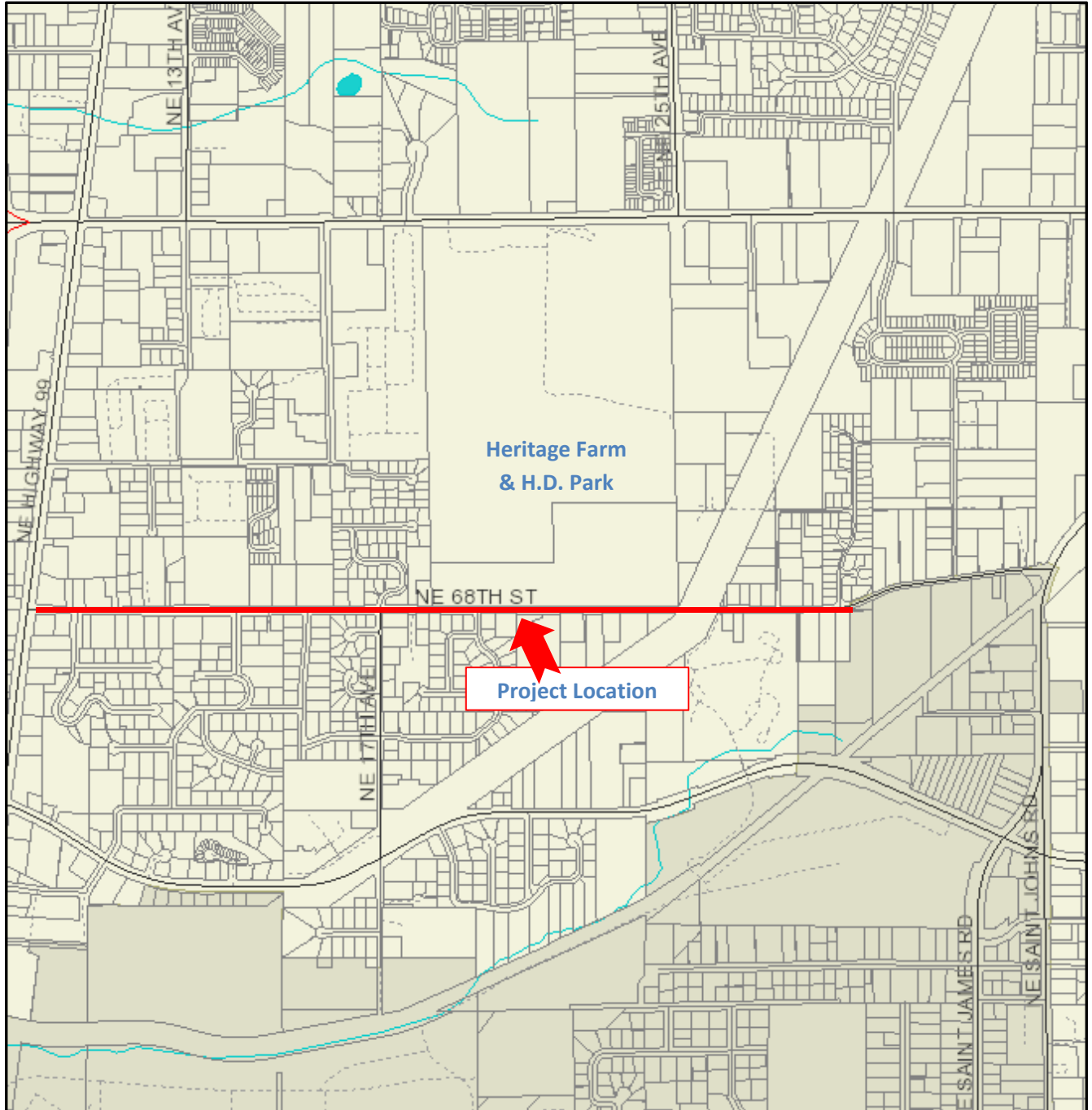
Funding Source	Amount
County Road Fund	\$1,329,000

## Other Information

You may use this space to provide any additional project information considered worth noting:

This project ranks #1 in priority in the County's Sidewalk Program. The neighborhood and surrounding area highly support this project as we have received several requests for a sidewalk along NE 68th Street. The expense of this project will require it be constructed in phases.

# Vicinity Map



Clark County  
NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street East Sidewalk Project  
(Highway 99 – Vancouver City Limits)



Project Photos:  
Highway 99 to NE 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue:



East of NE 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue



Hazel Dell Park Frontage:



Clark County  
NE 68<sup>th</sup> Street East Sidewalk Project  
(Highway 99 – Vancouver City Limits)