



City of Spokane—Media Release

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CITY RECEIVES GRANTS TOTALING \$5.2 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN HILLYARD

The Washington state Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) has awarded the City of Spokane two grants totaling \$5.2 million for improvements in Hillyard. These projects are part of a slate of public and private investment planned for the area over the next three years that's expected to result in a significant revitalization of this historic business center.

“This is the centers and corridors strategy of our Comprehensive Plan coming to life,” says Mayor Mary Verner. “The work planned for Hillyard will improve access for motorists and pedestrians, increase housing options, and add a variety of amenities. We will position Hillyard for even more investment and economic growth.”

The TIB grants include:

- A \$2.7 million grant from the TIB’s Urban Corridor Program designed to enhance economic development. This project will include new ADA-compliant sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, and street trees with a new irrigation system along Market Street from Heroy to Columbia. Construction is slated for 2009.
- A \$2.5 million grant from the TIB’s urban arterial program. The money will be used to construct a left-turn lane and add sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Francis Avenue from Freya to Havana. The project is slated for construction in 2011.

A variety of other public projects also are planned for the Hillyard area in 2009 alone, including:

- A 10-Year Street Bond project that will reconstruct Market from Garland to Francis.
- A Park Bond project that will replace the pool in Harmon Park.
- A streetscape improvement project along Queen Street from Haven to Green funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.
- City water and sewer system upgrades.

In addition, the Washington State Department of Transportation plans to hook Hillyard into a pedestrian/bike path that's being constructed as part of the North Spokane Corridor project. The timing for this work hasn't been finalized.

Meanwhile, area property owners have set up two Local Improvement Districts that will pay for the paving of four unpaved side streets in the downtown Hillyard area also in 2009. In addition, private developers are planning a \$5.5 million, 35-unit senior, affordable housing complex at Market and Queen called the Market Street Station.

“As a City, we've been working to develop our centers and corridors, and we have a great opportunity in Hillyard,” says Teresa Brum, the City's Business & Development Services Department Director. “The business owners in Hillyard should be recognized for their hard work toward making this area a vital place for commerce and community gathering.”