



# **News Release**

## **CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE**

6100 219<sup>TH</sup> STREET SW, SUITE 200  
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, WASHINGTON 98043

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

John J. Caulfield, City Manager, (425) 744-6205

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### **Council Considers Unfunded Capital Projects**

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE—A detailed list of yet-to-be-funded Capital Projects was presented at the City Council's February 16 meeting. Although the Council has a \$66 million capital improvement plan with funding already in place over the next six years, several additional capital projects do not yet have funding.

One of the Council's goals is to "Review and Prioritize Capital Infrastructure Needs and Implement Projects." The key objective of this goal is to have a capital improvement program that provides a safe, clean, and well-maintained community for the enjoyment of all residents and to avoid greater replacement costs in the future.

The list of projects was identified from a series of policies and strategies (i.e., Town Center Plan, Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Civic Facilities Needs Assessment & Conceptual Design, etc.) adopted by the City Council after considerable public input and participation dating back to 2006.

The yet-to-be-funded list includes \$142 million in projects with more than half of that amount for facilities, such as a new Civic Campus and Recreation Pavilion. Additional projects needing funding sources include parks and open space, as well as street and sidewalk improvements. The projects could take 20 to 30 years to implement.

At the conclusion of the February 16 meeting, the Council directed that information on the unfunded Capital Projects, including further evaluation of

financing options, timelines, and cost estimates be brought back for review. The Council will then prioritize the list in the coming months.

The City Council also directed that an updated cost estimate and financing strategy for a new Civic Campus be developed within 60 days. At that time, the Council may consider whether or not to go to the voters with a property tax levy for consideration, perhaps this November or in the coming years. Funding the Civic Campus through a levy came from the 11-member Civic Facilities Task Force that met in 2008 and 2009.

The community has a long history of funding civic projects through voter-approved tax levies. Examples include:

- Old Civic Center (1960)
- Recreation Pavilion (1964)
- Evergreen Playfield (1975)
- Sno-Isle Library District (1986)
- Police Station/Fire Department Equipment (1988)

Construction prices have dropped dramatically in the past two years as businesses sharpened their pencils to win bids in the current economy. This trend has enabled the city to realize considerable savings on vital street and water utility projects. It is estimated that the cost of the new Civic Campus has decreased by \$3.25 million just in the past year, but these decreases may not last more than a couple more years.

The proposed Civic Campus, currently projected to cost \$34 million, would be built on the site of the old campus, located at 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and 232nd Street. It would incorporate sustainable design standards and retain the library and fire station while integrating new public spaces to include a police station, emergency operations center, community center, senior activity center, city offices, public meeting spaces, observation deck, enhanced streetscapes, green roofs and energy-efficient components. Events at the campus will include a farmers market, senior activities, public safety fairs, dance recitals, art shows, outdoor movies and concerts.

The Civic Campus will be a vibrant part of the city's new Town Center and serve as a catalyst for private reinvestment in the downtown. The construction will incorporate energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly LEED Silver or better building techniques to reduce long-term operating costs. Its form and scale are designed to fit into the park, surrounding neighborhoods, and the vision for the Town Center.

The recommendation incorporates space to accommodate both current and future uses and allow for expansion to serve the needs of the community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The issue of a new Civic Campus has been studied by City Councils since the 1980s, and the current Council has followed a very deliberate and methodical process, including the appointment of the citizen Task Force to provide a fresh perspective of the situation, numerous opportunities for the public to provide input, and tours of Mountlake Terrace and regional civic facilities.

More information on the [Capital Investment Strategy](#) is available on the city's website at [www.cityofmlt.com](http://www.cityofmlt.com) or contact Assistant City Manager Scott Hugill at (425) 744-6208.

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