



# **Downtown Connectivity Improvements Project Status Update**

City Council Meeting  
July 15, 2025

Carlo D'Alessandro, Public Works Director

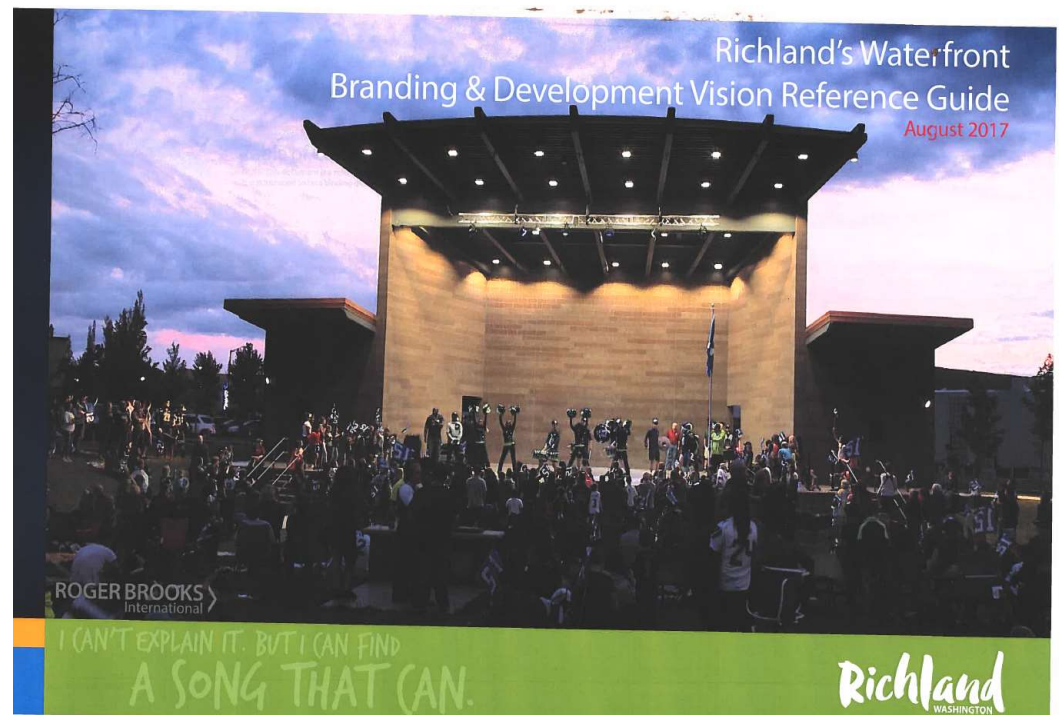


# High-Level Project Objectives

- **Invest** in the CBD and promote **vitality**.
- Connect the **waterfront** to the CBD.
- Effectively move **all modes of travel**.
- Boost Richland's **quality of life** & neighborhood **character**.
- Support our **businesses** and set the stage for **growth**.

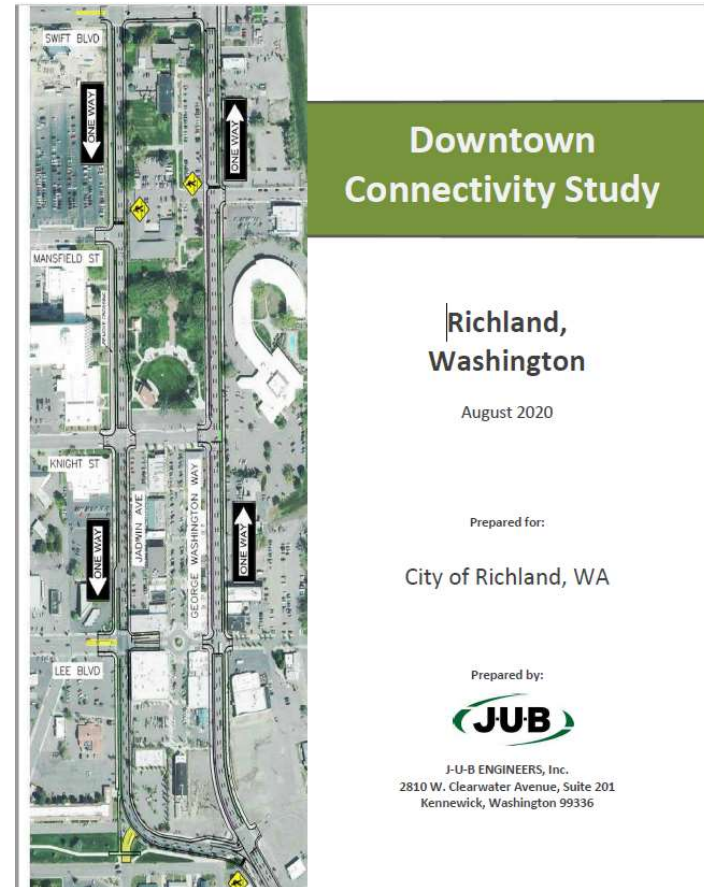
# Visioning

- 2018 Council Strategic Plan
  - Improve streets to enhance walkability in the core downtown area
  - Encourage greater residential densities in and around the Waterfront District
  - Increase office and commercial demand within the core of downtown Richland
- Roger Brooks Planning Study
  - GWW Impedes City vision for downtown
- John Dam Plaza
- Parkway, Uptown
- Swift Corridor
- 2024 Council Strategic Plan
  - Focused Development – vibrant downtown
  - Quality of Life – improved pedestrian and bicycle mobility



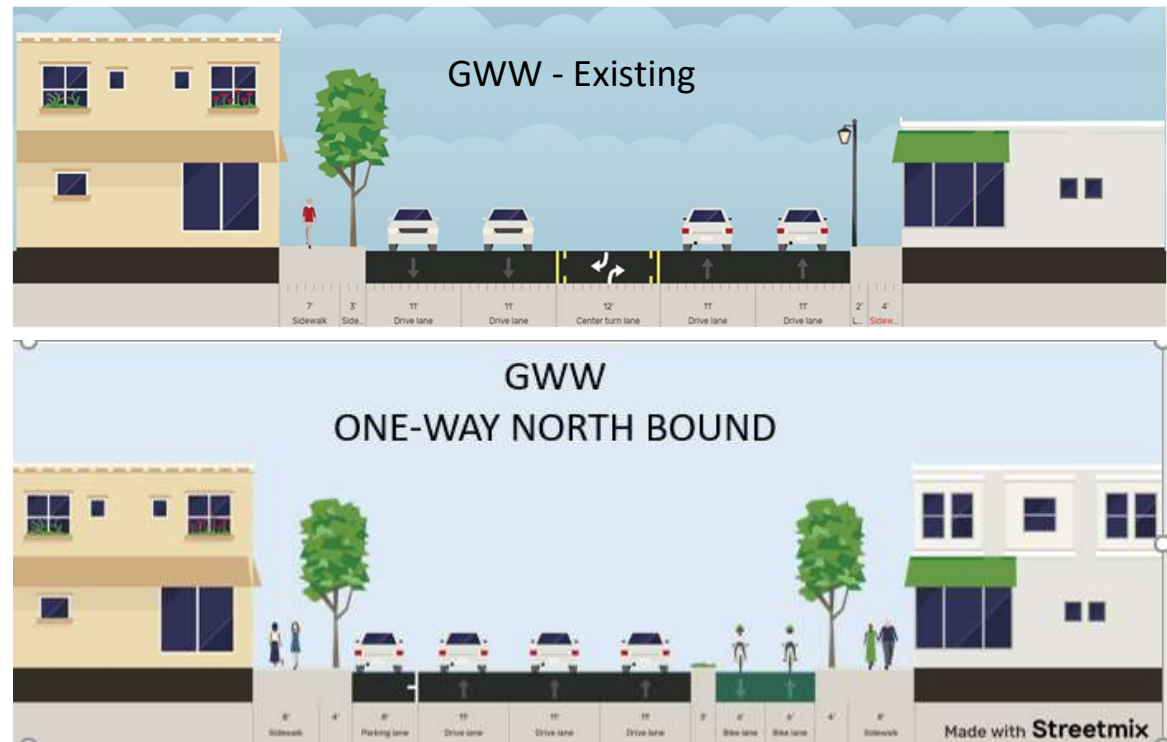
# Planning

- Downtown Connectivity Study
  - Community Collaboration
    - Large, diverse stakeholder committee
  - Technical Alternatives Analysis
    - 4 Alternatives studied
  - Public Engagement
    - Well-attended Open House
    - 1,155 Surveys returned
  - Council Resolution No. 98-20
- Comprehensive Safety Action Plan



# Design Concept

- Complete Streets road diet
  - Maintains vehicle capacity
- Repurposes right of way for:
  - protected bicycle space
  - wider sidewalks
  - on-street parking
  - stormwater facilities
- Improved mid-block pedestrian crossings
- Improved lighting
- Urban design elements (art, banners, landscape, wayfinding)













# Agency Support / Funding

- Benton Franklin Council of Governments
  - \$500,000 (TAP) – 8/2022
  - \$1,931,640 (CRP) – 12/2023
- Washington State Transportation Improvement Board
  - \$3,500,000 – 12/2022
- United States Department of Transportation – Safe Streets 4 All
  - \$11,700,000 – 12/2023
- Washington State Department of Transportation - NHS
  - \$1,024,000 – 1/2024
- Washington State Department of Ecology – Water Quality Program
  - \$46,933 – 11/2024 (Design)
- City
  - \$1,104,000 (Design) 2021 and 2023 Capital Improvement Plan
  - \$3,160,000 (Construction) 2025 Capital Improvement Plan
  - \$1,790,000 (Construction) 2026 Capital Improvement Plan
- Total Committed Funding - \$24,756,573







# Project Status

- Environmental Review Complete
- 60% Design Complete
- Federal Highway Administration Funding Agreement in Process
- Right-of-Way Acquisition Begins
- Project Branding Complete
- Project Website is Live
- Public Engagement has Begun



# Project Schedule

- ROW Acquisition (construction easements and ROW): June to December 2025
- Urban Design / planning: June to November 2025
- Public Open House: Fall/Winter 2025
- 90% Engineering Design Complete: November 2025
- 100% Design completion + ROW approval + funds obligation: December 31, 2025
- Bid advertisement: January 2026
- Contractor Bid Award: February 2026
- Online Open House: Spring 2026
- Construction Start: Spring 2026
- Construction Completion: Fall/Winter 2027 [18+ months of work]

# Community Engagement and Outreach

- Staff and consultant development of “The Downtown Loop” branding.
- Website: [www.TheDowntownLoop.com](http://www.TheDowntownLoop.com)
- Direct outreach to properties impacted by right-of-way and easement acquisition begins this week.
- Future formation of a focus group.

PRIMARY LOGO



HORIZONTAL LOGO



SUBMARK LOGO





# Logo

- Focusing on shades of blue, green & yellow connecting to the rivers and landscape.
- Highlights biking, walking & driving and intentionally depicts the shape of the project area alongside the Columbia River waterway.

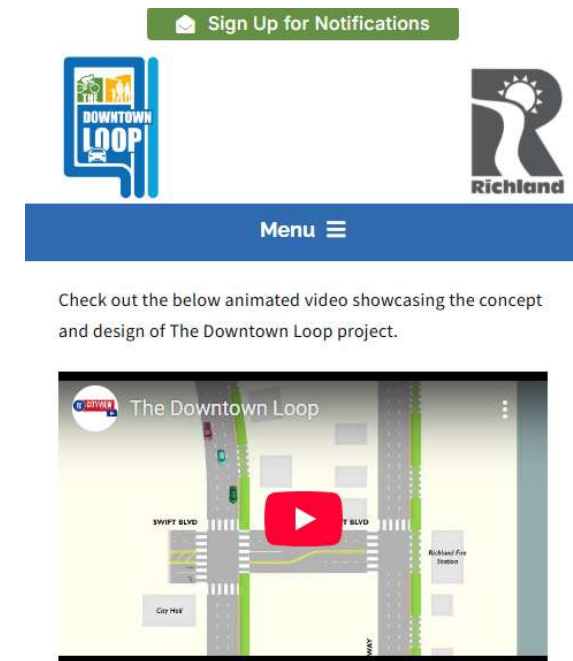






# Project Website

- [www.TheDowntownLoop.com](http://www.TheDowntownLoop.com)
  - Project History and Background
  - Budget
  - Timeline
  - Construction Updates,
  - Files, Videos, Renderings, Plans (future)
  - FAQs,
  - Contact Info, Email Subscription.



## Construction Updates

In July, the City will begin reaching out to businesses whose properties may be affected by upcoming construction for the Downtown Loop project. Impacted property owners will receive letters outlining potential effects on their property, such as the need to temporarily access part of the property or





# Invitation to the Public to Participate !

- After many years, the project is now ready for active community engagement.
- The City is resourced and committed to effectively communicate with residents, business owners & stakeholders.
- We invite the community to engage with us in the process.



# Questions?

