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Budget Action description:

This green sheet adds \$50,000 GSF to the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in 2015 for consultant assistance to enhance community outreach around process improvements to the Design Review Program. The City of Seattle Design Review program provides an opportunity for community input into the early stages of the design of buildings in Seattle. The program has been in place since 1994. The program relies on seven Design Review Boards, which receive community input and provide direction to developers. Developers receive advice on how to improve their project and have the opportunity to waive development standards in order to achieve a better design.

DPD has proposed to undertake a significant review of the design review program in 2015. Among the issues that the Department plans to evaluate are:

- Changes to design review thresholds;
- Changes to the makeup, organization, or number of design review boards;
- Use of streamlined design review, administrative design review, and full design review;
- Better use of technology to expand participation and access to the program; and
- New and better strategies for attaining public input on design.

The Department proposes to use 0.35 FTE in the planning division and 0.20 FTE in the Operations Division to work on this project. This proposed green sheet would add resources for consultant assistance to enhance public outreach to Seattle’s neighborhoods around options for amending the City’s Design Review Program. The effort will include meetings and workshops with specific stakeholders and a process to build consensus across stakeholder groups around recommended changes.

If this green sheet is approved, DPD would work with the consultants to prepare a report to City Council that summarizes that process and the results of that outreach, including areas of consensus across stakeholder groups. The report should:

- a) provide options for specific changes to improve the Design Review process, business practices and regulations; and
- b) present a proposal for implementing those changes in 2016 and beyond.

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Budget Action Transactions

Budget Action Title: Add \$50,000 GSF to DPD in 2015 for outreach and policy development related to a comprehensive review of the Design Review program

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Transfer GSF to support design review process improvements				FG	Planning and Development Fund	Q5971570	00100	2015		\$50,000
2	Increase GSF support for design review process improvements				DPD	General Subfund Support	587001	15700	2015	\$50,000	
3	Spend funds for design review process improvements				DPD	Planning	U2900	15700	2015		\$50,000