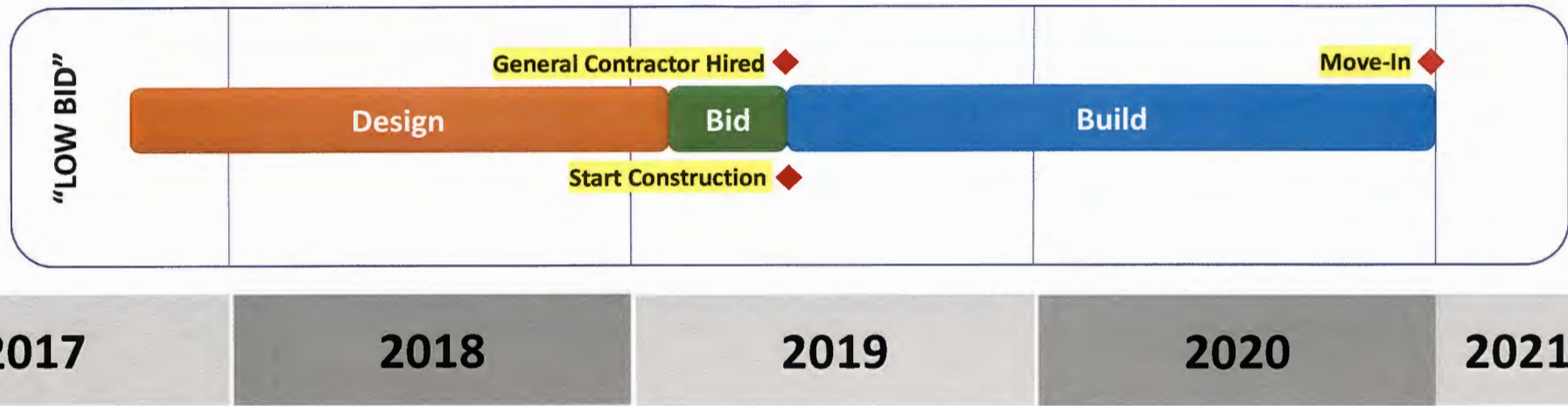


Received At Council Meeting
Meeting Date: 12/11/17
Agenda Item: 4.6
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From: Allen DANNEN

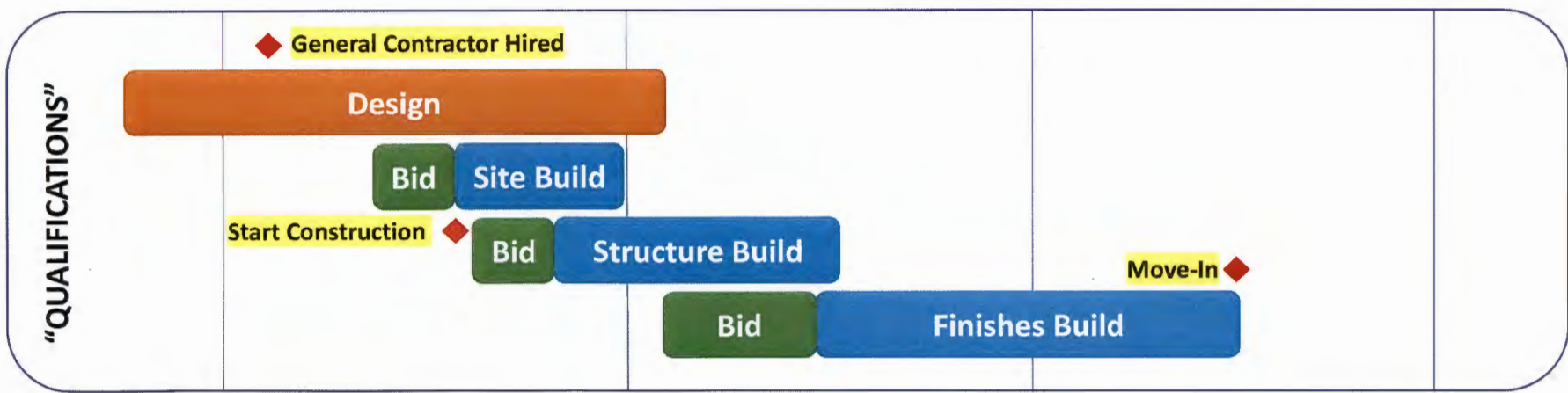
GC

General Contractor



CM/GC

Construction Manager General Contractor



December 11, 2017

Salem City Council
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Received At Council Meeting

Meeting Date: 12/11/17

Agenda Item: 2

Received by: KL

From: Bob Cortright

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY OPTIONS ON FISHER ROAD (Agenda Item 6.C)

Mayor and Councilors:

I strongly encourage you to direct the Public Works staff to develop additional recommendations for improvements along Fisher Road NE that can be implemented in the next year or two to make the street safer for pedestrians and cyclists. This should include adding or widening paved shoulders along Fisher Road to provide a safe place for people to walk and bike.

The existing recommendations – to add 4-way stops at Devonshire and Beverly and speed advisory signs – are a good first step. They should help slow traffic which will help make this street safer.

However, while slowing down traffic is important, the staff's recommendations to address the lack of sidewalks and shoulders along much of Fisher Road is simply to suggest that the Council consider funding a full urban upgrade in some future street bond. That recommendation means that this critical need would remain unaddressed for another five years or more. More can and should be done sooner. The reason is simple: Fisher Road is a critical route for walking and cycling for people who live in the area and the existing roadway is completely inadequate and unsafe for pedestrian access.

Fisher Road is important because it provides access from the surrounding residential neighborhood to nearby shops, including three grocery stores Mega Foods, Walmart, and Grocery Outlet. Many of the people who live in the area do not have cars, so walking or biking are their primary getting to and from these nearby stores.

Facilities for walking along Fisher Road, particularly the highly traveled stretch between Silverton Road and Devonshire are completely inadequate: most of this segment has no sidewalks or even paved shoulders. The attached screenshots from Google Street View illustrate the situation. Two women in mobility scooters pass each other near Devonshire; one has a small child in her lap – both are in the street because there are neither shoulders nor sidewalks. A pedestrian walks along a narrow path on the roadway shoulder. A cyclist, walking a dog crosses from one side of the street to the other to get to a paved shoulder. A mother pushing a stroller cuts through a parking lot because there is no sidewalk or shoulder.

Here are four suggestions for low-cost improvements to make Fisher Road safer in the next year or two: (1) add or widen paved shoulders, (2) add reflectorized pavement markers to delineate the shoulder walkway; (3) add street lights; (4) add pedestrian crossing islands at Devonshire and Beverly Streets.

Sincerely,

Robert Cortright

373 Suncrest Avenue NW



Fisher Road

Looking South
towards Devonshire
Street

Two women in
mobility scooters pass
each other



Fisher Road

Looking North
towards Silverton
Road

Mobility Scooters,
pedestrian, man on
bike with dog
crossing Fisher
Road



Fisher Road

Looking North, just
north of Devonshire

Woman with stroller
cuts through parking
lot