Memo

To: Mayor Kwarsick, City Council
From: Jeff Arango, AICP, CFM – Director of Community Planning
Date: March 1, 2012

Re: Staff Report for March 5, 2012 City Council Meeting
Complete Streets Ordinance and Main Street Resolution

Complete Streets Ordinance

Complete streets are those that provide for a variety of transportation modes including vehicles, pedestrians, transit and bicyclists. The complete streets ordinance would make it city policy to implement complete streets principles, where feasible and appropriate, in future transportation and street projects. In 2011 the Washington State Legislature passed a complete streets bill that includes a grant program to fund complete street projects. The adoption of the complete streets ordinance would allow Langley to be eligible for the grant program.

The Planning Advisory Board (PAB) has reviewed the complete streets ordinance and unanimously recommends adoption by the council.

Main Street Resolution

The main street resolution outlines the city’s intention to utilize the state’s main street tax incentive program to allocate $45,000 the city pays in B&O tax through our utility funds to the Langley Main Street Association (LMSA). Both the Department of Revenue and the State Auditor have stated the city is eligible to participate in the program.

The city will receive a 75% credit on the amount of money allocated to the Langley Main Street Association on the city’s 2013 tax bill. Therefore the city will have to pay for the extra 25% to participate in the program, which based on an allocation of $45,000 will increase the city’s costs by $11,250. According to the state auditor the $11,250 should come from the city’s general fund, not the utility funds. A budget amendment will be required to allocate $11,250 from the general fund. The initial payments from the utility funds to main street have been budgeted for.

LMSA is waiting for the state to release the new application to become eligible to participate in the tax incentive program. Once LMSA becomes designated the city will provide funding as
described above retroactively to January 1, 2012. The new application should be released by the state within a few weeks.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the city adopt both the complete streets ordinance and main street resolution as presented.