



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director   
**DATE:** July 25, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** **Transportation Alternative Program (TA) - Grant Selection,  
Resolution 08-17-11**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*The purpose of this resolution is to request RTC Board action on the grant project selection for the 2019-2020 Transportation Alternatives Program (TA). Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of almost \$1.3 million in regionally allocated federal funds for seven projects within the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) as the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) is responsible for awarding grants for Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) within the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region. Projects receiving Transportation Alternative grants will be programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and can proceed according to their programming year.

The Transportation Alternative Program provides funding for a variety of alternative transportation projects. Transportation Alternative eligible projects include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, viewing areas, recreational trails, and safe routes to school.

RTC staff worked with member agencies to develop the process by which TA projects would be selected. The process and call for projects was approved by the RTC Board at their March 7, 2017 meeting. For more information on the grant process and submitted projects, please go to RTC's TA web page at <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tap>.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the 2019-2020 Transportation Alternatives Program grant process and to request RTC Board selection of the Transportation Alternatives projects. In July, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed and recommended that the RTC Board of Directors select all seven TA projects for funding.

### SUBMITTAL PROCESS AND PROJECTS

Applications for Transportation Alternatives Program funding were due to RTC on Monday, May 1, 2017. Seven projects were submitted to RTC for a total TA request of just over \$2.5 million and total project cost of approximately \$8.2 million. The full list of projects is summarized on the next page:

## Transportation Alternatives Applications

- **Chelatchie Rails with Trails Phase 2:** The City of Battle Ground requested funds for design and right of way acquisition for a 0.75 mile section of the Chelatchie Prairie Rails with Trails, between Main Street and Northeast City Limits. The trail will be a 12-foot wide multi-use asphalt path. Total project cost (PE/RW) is \$250,000, with a grant request of \$216,250.
- **NE 68th Street Sidewalk:** Clark County will design sidewalks along one side of 68th Street, between Highway 99 and the Vancouver City Limit (1.05 miles). After additional engineering, Clark County will determine a 2,100 foot section for construction of the first phase of the project. The remainder of the sidewalk will be constructed in future phases. Total project cost is \$2,129,000, with a grant request of \$800,000.
- **Klickitat Multi-Use Trail Connection Project:** Klickitat County will construct 0.29 miles of multi-use trail in the community of Klickitat. The project will include 1200 linear feet of 8 foot asphalt concrete trail, 21 linear feet of new 5 foot sidewalk, lighting upgrade, ADA accommodations, curb extensions, and new benches. Total project cost is \$98,000, with a grant request of \$55,000.
- **Phase III Waterfront Trail Construction: Stevenson Shoreline Project:** The Port of Skamania County will construct a new accessible 550-foot waterfront trail and overlook, creating a continuous waterfront trail paralleling the Columbia River in the City of Stevenson. The trail will be ADA-accessible, and enhanced with benches, native landscaping, and wayfinding and interpretive signage. Total project cost is \$344,658, with a grant request of \$200,000.
- **Columbia River Renaissance Trail Connection:** The Port of Vancouver will construct a 1,200 linear foot long and approximately 24 feet wide trail connecting the Columbia River Renaissance Trail at the Port's Terminal 1 property. The project will also require ground stabilization. This will eliminate a gap in the City of Vancouver's regional waterfront trail. The trail will be ADA-accessible, and enhanced with security lighting, landscaping, benches, public art, wayfinding and interpretive signage. Total project cost is \$4,000,000, with a grant request of \$485,000.
- **Gee Creek Trail – Abrams Park to Heron Drive:** The City of Ridgefield will construct a paved ADA accessible trail adjacent to Gee Creek from Abrams Park to Heron Drive. Total project cost is \$420,415, with a grant request of \$100,000.
- **NW Neighborhood Connectivity Improvements:** The City of Vancouver will make strategic active transportation improvements in the Lincoln neighborhood. The project has three main components: 1) construction of sidewalks, curb, and stormwater facilities on the west side of Lincoln Avenue with pedestrian crossing at 53rd Street, 2) addition of sharrows on local streets to create neighborhood bike route, and 3) design of sidewalk and path to improve access to Franklin Elementary School. Total project cost is \$928,055, with a grant request of \$678,055.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

After receiving projects and prior to beginning the evaluation process, RTC invited the public to comment on proposed Transportation Alternatives projects. The public was able to comment on proposed projects via RTC’s website. RTC received 47 comments for the proposed projects. All comments were in favor of particular projects. Public comments were provided to the evaluation team to inform their evaluation.

**EVALUATION PROCESS**

RTC formed an evaluation team to evaluate and rank proposed Transportation Alternatives projects. The evaluation team included a citizen representative from the Clark County Bike Committee and staff members from C-TRAN, WSDOT, Clark County Health Department, and RTC. The Evaluation Team evaluated projects based on regional criteria as adopted by the RTC Board. The Evaluation Team served as an advisory committee to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC). The Evaluation Team’s scores and ranking were presented to RTAC for review at their July meeting. RTAC discussed the evaluation and ranking and concurred with the Evaluation Team’s ranking.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee is recommending that all of the projects receive funding, with the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> ranked projects only receiving funding for design. The following table displays the RTAC recommendation:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Award</b>
1	Phase III Waterfront Trail Construction: Stevenson	Port of Skamania	CN	\$200,000
2	Columbia River Renaissance Trail Connection	Port of Vancouver	CN	\$485,000
3	Gee Creek Trail - Abrams Park to Heron Dr.	Ridgefield	CN	\$100,000
4	NE 68th Street Sidewalk	Clark County	PE	\$150,000
5	NW Neighborhood Connectivity Improvements	Vancouver	PE	\$145,000
6	Klickitat Multi-Use Trail Connection Project	Klickitat County	CN	\$55,000
7	Chelatchie Rails with Trails Phase 2	Battle Ground	PE	\$147,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,282,000</b>

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

Action on this resolution will select seven projects for funding. These projects will enhance the surface transportation system throughout the RTPO region. Each of these projects is consistent with and helps implement the current Regional Transportation Plan.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of \$1,282,000 in regionally allocated federal funds for seven projects within the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 08-17-11, "Transportation Alternative Program (TA)-Grant Selection".

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Jeanne E. Stewart  
Chair of the Board

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Matt Ransom  
Executive Director