



## STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Matt Ransom, Executive Director  
**DATE:** March 27, 2018   
**SUBJECT:** **Battle Ground Project Delay Request - Chelatchie Rails with Trails, Resolution 04-18-08**

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### AT A GLANCE - ACTION

*The RTC Board is being asked to take action to grant the City of Battle Ground a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of project delay for the construction of the Chelatchie Rails with Trails project. This action will allow the City to delay obligation of \$225,000 in federal Transportation Alternative (TA) funds into federal fiscal year 2019.*

### INTRODUCTION

RTC policies and procedures, as outlined in the Transportation Guidebook, allow for regionally selected federal projects to be granted additional time for project delivery under certain conditions.

RTC's process requires that projects be delivered by August in the year funds are programmed within the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). If the sponsoring agency cannot meet the August obligation deadline, the sponsoring agency must contact RTC in writing by March to request a project delay.

The basic policy/procedures for project delays are (Guidebook Policies 5.3 to 5.8):

1. Design Phase cannot be granted a delay.
2. Right of Way and Construction phases are allowed a one year delay (1<sup>st</sup> year delay).
3. If delay does not impact regional obligation authority the following additional delays can be sought:
  - a. RTAC can approve one additional year of delay (2<sup>nd</sup> year delay).
  - b. RTAC and RTC Board can approve another year (3<sup>rd</sup> year delay).

The City of Battle Ground has run into a number of delays on their Chelatchie Rails With Trails project due to design consultation with the railroad operator and right of way issues, and has requested a 3<sup>rd</sup> year project delay exception. The City expects to obligate construction funds in late 2018, but delay could be into 2019. Construction was originally programmed in 2016 and has previously been delayed twice. The City of Battle Ground's letter requesting an additional year of delay is attached.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed this project delay at their March meeting and has recommended that the RTC Board approve this delay. This additional year delay will not impact the regions ability to meet our obligation targets.

**POLICY IMPLICATION**

This project delay is consistent with the project delay policies as outlined in the Transportation Programming Guidebook. This will allow the Chelatchie Rails with Trails project to proceed to construction in 2019 and would allow the City of Battle Ground to begin design of phase II of the project.

**BUDGET IMPLICATION**

Action on this delay will delay \$225,000 in federal Transportation Alternative (TA) funds into federal fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). Despite this delay, the region will meet our obligation target for year 2018, and there is no concern that the region will lose federal funds.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Adoption of Resolution 04-18-08: “Battle Ground Project Delay Request – Chelatchie Rails with Trails.”

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2018,  
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

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Ron Onslow  
Chair of the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Ransom  
Executive Director

Attachment: City of Battle Ground Letter



# City of Battle Ground

City Hall • Engineering Department

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March 8, 2018

Matt Ransom, Executive Director  
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council  
PO Box 1366  
Vancouver, WA 98666-1366

RE: Chelatchie Prairie Rails With Trails – TAP – Extension Request

Dear Matt:

Per Policy 5.8 of the Programming Guidebook, I am informing you that I believe this project cannot make the August obligation deadline and would like to go through the process of requesting an extension. I do believe we will have the construction phase obligated this year, I'm just not confident it will happen by August.

There are two main issues that are holding the project up:

1. Based on the agreement that the County has with the railroad operator the railroad operator has to approve the design for the project. While they have indicated that they are not opposed to the trail they have made us go through numerous design changes, which continues to take time to get through.
2. During the initial ROW work, three encroachments have been discovered that need to be dealt with. This has added additional time to the ROW phase.

The City of Battle Ground appreciates the opportunity to make this request. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 342-5072 or if you prefer email please try [mark.herceg@cityofbg.org](mailto:mark.herceg@cityofbg.org).

Sincerely,

Mark Herceg, PE  
City Engineer