



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: June 25, 2019
SUBJECT: **2019 Transportation Alternatives Grant Awards, Resolution 07-19-19**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The purpose of this resolution is to request RTC Board action on the grant project awards for the 2019-2022 Transportation Alternatives Program (TA). Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of almost \$2.35 million in regionally allocated federal funds for three projects within the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region.

BACKGROUND

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 February 5, 2019 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 2019-2022 Transportation Alternatives Program grant process and to request RTC Board selection of the Transportation Alternatives projects. In June, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed and recommended that the RTC Board of Directors select top projects for funding.

SUBMITTAL PROCESS AND PROJECTS

Applications for Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) funding were due to RTC on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Seven projects were submitted to RTC for a total TA request of just over \$3.7 million. The full list of projects, in alphabetical order by jurisdiction name, is summarized on the follow page:

2019 Transportation Alternatives Applications

- **NE 68th Street Sidewalk:** Clark County and City of Vancouver will construct a continuous sidewalk along the south side of NE 68th Street, between Highway 99 and NE St. Johns Road. This project includes enhanced crossings at four key locations to allow access to trip generators on the north side of the roadway.
- **NE Hazel Dell Avenue Sidewalk Improvements:** Clark County will improve pedestrian and bicycle movements on Hazel Dell Avenue from NE 99th Street to 117th. Improvements include building missing and damaged sidewalk segments, curb ramps, bike lanes, and relocating a mid-block pedestrian crossing.
- **Ball Field Road Sidewalk Project:** Klickitat County will construct a sidewalk in the community of Klickitat adjacent to Ball Field Road. The project will include grade separated sidewalk, curb ramps, lighting, and benches.
- **Gee Creek Trail Connector Project:** The City of Ridgefield will construct a gravel trail connecting two segments of the existing Gee Creek Trail; Abrams Park segment to the North and the Hillhurst neighborhood segment to the south. The project will include the addition of a crosswalk over Pioneer Street.
- **1st Street Pedestrian Amenities & Overlook Project:** The City of Stevenson will make crosswalk improvements, add sidewalks, add pedestrian safety enhancements, and construct a pedestrian overlook of the Columbia River Gorge.
- **Del Ray Pedestrian Improvement Project:** The City of Stevenson will fill an important gap in Stevenson's pedestrian network and will serve Stevenson Elementary School. The project will construct sidewalk and curb, asphalt pathway, and add crosswalk improvements.
- **NW Neighborhood Connectivity Improvements:** The City of Vancouver will construct sidewalks, pathway, marked crossings, curb extension, and flashing beacons to improve pedestrian safety in the Northwest Neighborhood and enhance access to Franklin Elementary School.

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 by contacting RTC. RTC received 43 comments and letters of support for the proposed projects. All comments were supportive of particular projects, except for five comments that were unsupportive of the Stevenson Del Ray Pedestrian Improvement Project. 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 & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and staff members from C-TRAN, WSDOT, Clark County

Health Department, and RTC. The Evaluation Team evaluated projects individually based on regional criteria as adopted by the RTC Board. The Evaluation Team's scores and ranking were presented to RTAC for review at their June meeting. RTAC concurred with the Evaluation Team's ranking and recommended that funding follow the rank order.

GRANT AWARDS

Historically, the Transportation Alternative program has had the lowest rate of on-time project delivery, and the program is running approximately two-years behind our region's obligation target. Policy 6.2 from the adopted Transportation Programming Guidebook states that generally projects cannot receive construction funding until a project has 50% design completion.

RTAC is recommending that we follow the order that each project ranks with a conditional programming approach for selecting the construction phase. In order to receive construction funding, each project must demonstrate 50% construction plans by August 1, 2020. If 50% construction plans are not completed, construction funds will be removed from that project, and funds will be awarded to the next priority project that is ready to proceed, by way of RTC Board action. If construction funds are removed from a project, that agency could reapply for funding in the 2021 Transportation Alternatives call for projects.

The following table outlines the proposed funding and contingent recommendations:

2019 Transportation Alternative Award and Conditional Award:

Projects	Agency	Program Year	TA Award	TA Conditional	Phase(s) Funded	Source
1 st Street Pedestrian Amenities & Overlook	Stevenson	2019	\$132,800		PE	TA Rural
1 st Street Pedestrian Amenities & Overlook	Stevenson	2020		\$442,600	CN	TA Rural/Flex
NE 68 th Street Sidewalk	Clark Co. & Vancouver	2021/2022		\$1,700,000	CN	TA Urban/Flex & CMAQ
NE Hazel Dell Av. Sidewalk	Clark County	2019	\$79,600		PE	TA Urban

POLICY IMPLICATION

Action on this resolution will select three projects to receive Transportation Alternatives grant funding and add the projects to the 2019-2022 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Attached STIP record reports provide additional information on each project. 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

There is no direct budget impact to RTC. However, if the two preliminary engineering phases are obligated by August 2019, they would help the region to meet our federal obligation target.

Action on this resolution will result in the receipt of \$2,355,000 in regionally allocated federal funds for three projects within the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat County region.

- *1st Street Pedestrian Amenities & Overlook*, City of Stevenson, \$575,400 in TA Funds
- *NE 68th Street Sidewalk*, Clark County, \$600,000 in CMAQ Funds and \$1,100,000 in TA Funds
- *NE Hazel Dell Av. Sidewalk*, Clark County \$79,600 in TA Funds (Design Only).

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 07-19-19, “2019 Transportation Alternatives Grant Awards” grants \$2,355,000 in regional Transportation Alternatives Program funds to designated regional projects; and, amends the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program to reflect the grant awards.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of July 2019, by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Anne McEnery-Ogle
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Attachment

Washington State S. T. I. P.

2019 to 2022

(Project Funds to Nearest Dollar)

MPO/RTPO: RTC

Y Inside

N Outside

June 25, 2019

County: Clark

Agency: Clark Co.

Func Cls	Project Number	PIN	STIP ID	Imp Type	Total Project Length	Environmental Type	RW Required	Begin Termini	End Termini	Total Est. Cost of Project	STIP Amend. No.
17	4206(001)		WA-10683	44	1.320	CE	Yes	Highway 99	NE St. Johns Road	4,346,000	19-07

NE 68th Street Sidewalk

Design sidewalk on one side of street for entire length of NE 68th Street and construct the sidewalk. Mitigation and utility work may be required.

Funding

Phase	Start Date	Federal	Fund Code	Federal Funds		State Funds	Local Funds	Total
				Federal	State Fund Code			
PE	2019		TAP(UL)	150,000		0	600,000	750,000
RW	2020			0		0	356,000	356,000
CN	2021		TAP(UL)	1,700,000		0	1,540,000	3,240,000
Project Totals				1,850,000		0	2,496,000	4,346,000

Expenditure Schedule

Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
PE	450,000	150,000	0	0	0
RW	0	356,000	0	0	0
CN	0	0	1,750,000	1,490,000	0
Totals	450,000	506,000	1,750,000	1,490,000	0

Washington State S. T. I. P.

2019 to 2022

(Project Funds to Nearest Dollar)

MPO/RTPO: RTC

Y Inside

N Outside

June 25, 2019

County: Clark

Agency: Clark Co.

Func Cls	Project Number	PIN	STIP ID	Imp Type	Total Project Length	Environmental Type	RW Required	Begin Termini	End Termini	Total Est. Cost of Project	STIP Amend. No.
16			WA-12160	28	0.900	CE	Yes	NE 99th Street	NE 117th Street	903,000	19-07

NE Hazel Dell Avenue Sidewalk Improvements

Construct sidewalk infill, ADA ramps, retrofit ADA ramps, repair existing sidewalk defects, restripe bike lanes and add illumination/Rapid Flashing Beacon at NE 112th Circle.

Funding

Phase	Start Date	Federal	Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total
PE	2019		TAP(UL)	79,600		0	120,400	200,000
RW	2020			0		0	50,000	50,000
Project Totals				79,600		0	170,400	250,000

Expenditure Schedule

Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
PE	75,000	125,000	0	0	0
RW	0	50,000	0	0	0
Totals	75,000	175,000	0	0	0

	Federal Funds	State Funds	Local Funds	Total
Agency Totals for Clark Co.	1,929,600	0	2,666,400	4,596,000

Washington State S. T. I. P.

2019 to 2022

(Project Funds to Nearest Dollar)

MPO/RTPO: RTC

N Inside

Y Outside

June 25, 2019

County: Skamania

Agency: Stevenson

Func Cls	Project Number	PIN	STIP ID	Imp Type	Total Project Length	Environmental Type	RW Required	Begin Termini	End Termini	Total Est. Cost of Project	STIP Amend. No.
02			WA-12148	28	0.230	DCE	No	West of Columbia Av.	Lutheran Church Road	804,850	19-07

1st Street Pedestrian Amenities & Overlook

The project will include crosswalk striping, vegetated curb extensions, new sidewalk, pedestrian overlook, path connecting to existing waterfront path, and streetscaping.

Funding

Phase	Start Date	Federal	Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total
PE	2019		TAP(R)	132,800		0	52,950	185,750
CN	2020		TAP(R)	442,600		0	176,500	619,100
Project Totals				575,400		0	229,450	804,850

Expenditure Schedule

Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
PE	185,750	0	0	0	0
CN	0	619,100	0	0	0
Totals	185,750	619,100	0	0	0

	Federal Funds	State Funds	Local Funds	Total
Agency Totals for Stevenson	575,400	0	229,450	804,850