

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Faye Stewart, Public Works & Development Director

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF EAST REGIONAL AND NORTH REGIONAL PARK TRAIL GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS

DATE: January 4, 2023

Background

In September 2022 City staff worked with LCOG to submit a Pre-Application to ODOT to the Oregon Community Paths Grant Program to resurface the North Regional Park Trail and a second Pre-Application for a Refinement Grant for the East Regional Trail located in the Row River Nature Park. The North Regional Park Trail application is to resurface the trail and bringing it up to ADA standards. The East Regional Park application is to complete the planning and NEPA work necessary to resurface the East Regional Park Trail. On October 5, 2022 ODOT informed staff that the pre-application was approved and the City is authorized to submit an official State construction application for each proposal by January 31, 2023.

The attached support letters are recommended to be included with the City's official applications showing the City Council's support for the project.

Recommendation

City Council approve the North and East Regional Park grant application support letters to ODOT's Oregon Community Paths Program.

Cost

Application preparation fee of \$6,000.00 for grant application preparation to LCOG and if ODOT approves the application a 30% match will be proposed in the City's 2023-24 Bicycle and Footpath Fund.


Richard Meyers, City Manager


Faye Stewart, Public Works &
Development Director

January 9, 2023

Oregon Department of Transportation
Public Transportation Division
Attn: Alan Thompson, Oregon Community Paths Program Manager
555 13th Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for City of Cottage Grove's North Regional Park Trail Grant Application

Dear Mr. Thompson,

The Cottage Grove City Council is pleased to submit an Oregon Community Paths construction project grant application to resurface our North Regional Park Trail. This trail is within our North Regional Park and is an important link in our City's bicycle and pedestrian network. It has served our City well for many years but its current conditions are poor. The trail is 8.5-foot wide and its surface is warped and cracked to due to weather, tree roots, and use; creating barriers that must be addressed in order to have a fully accessible trail.

A survey conducted in the development of the City of Cottage Grove North Regional Park Master Plan, adopted January 2020, found that the Park's top amenity is its walking trails and that maintenance should be a priority. The City is committed to maintaining our existing infrastructure and enhancing it for a truly accessible network. This trail goes under the interstate north of the interstate interchange, off-road and conflict free from vehicles. Resurfacing this trail maintains a safer and more accessible travel route for those travelling east and west of I-5 to and from residential, commercial, and employment destinations on both sides.

The City of Cottage Grove's Transportation System Plan (TSP) establishes strong goals and policies focused on safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian travel and the City is dedicated to achieving them, in part by bringing our existing paths into ADA compliance. Related goals and policies include:

Goal 1: Enhance the Cottage Grove area's quality of life and competitive economic advantage by providing a transportation system that is accessible, efficient, equitable, interconnected, safe, balanced, efficient, environmentally responsible, financially stable, and sustainable.

Policy 19: Plan and develop a network of streets, accessways, and other facilities including bikeways, sidewalks, and safe street crossings, to promote safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian circulation within the community.

Policy 20: Maintain bikeways and pedestrian accessways (including sidewalks) at the same priority as motor vehicle facilities.

Policy 22: Connect bikeways and pedestrian accessways with local and regional travel routes.

The Cottage Grove City Council appreciates the opportunity to apply for funding through the Oregon Community Paths Program and encourages support of this application.

Sincerely,

Candace Solesbee
Cottage Grove Mayor

January 9, 2023

Oregon Department of Transportation
Public Transportation Division
Attn: Alan Thompson, Oregon Community Paths Program Manager
555 13th Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for City of Cottage Grove's East Regional Trail Project Refinement Grant Application

Dear Mr. Thompson,

The Cottage Grove City Council is pleased to submit an Oregon Community Paths project refinement grant application to complete the planning work necessary prior to resurfacing our East Regional Trail.

The City of Cottage Grove's Transportation System Plan (TSP) establishes strong goals and policies focused on safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian travel and the City is committed to achieving them. They include:

Goal 1: Enhance the Cottage Grove area's quality of life and competitive economic advantage by providing a transportation system that is accessible, efficient, equitable, interconnected, safe, balanced, efficient, environmentally responsible, financially stable, and sustainable.

Policy 19: Plan and develop a network of streets, accessways, and other facilities including bikeways, sidewalks, and safe street crossings, to promote safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian circulation within the community.

Policy 20: Maintain bikeways and pedestrian accessways (including sidewalks) at the same priority as motor vehicle facilities.

Policy 22: Connect bikeways and pedestrian accessways with local and regional travel routes.

The East Regional Trail within the Row River Nature Park has been a part of the City's trail system for many years, but it is currently in poor condition and not meeting the needs of all of our residents, nor the goals and policies of our TSP. It is an 8-foot wide trail that is eroded and buckling throughout its length. The uneven surface and narrow width create safety hazards and barriers for many potential users. Prior to resurfacing and widening this trail, we must complete planning work including floodplain and sensitive habitat review. This is an important trail to the City as its location is well established to support the employment lands to the Row River Nature Park's northern end, along East Davidson Avenue and East Palmer Avenue. Employees of this growing employment cluster will be able to better utilize trail for transportation purposes when it is resurfaced to ADA compliance.

The Cottage Grove City Council appreciates the opportunity to apply for funding through the Oregon Community Paths Program and encourages support of this application.

Sincerely,

Candace Solesbee
Cottage Grove Mayor